



Conditional sentences with SI

The four conditional + SI + subjunctive combinations — and the one rule that governs them all.

THE 5 RULES

1

Never SI before a conditional

The golden rule. After SI comes the indicative (real condition) or the subjunctive (unreal condition) — never the Conditional.

2

Real condition: the indicative is enough

Past: Si tenía mucho que hacer, me quedaba en casa. Present or future: Si hace buen tiempo, podemos salir. Iré a verlo si me siento mejor.

3

Hypothesis about now or later

Condicional Simple + SI + Imperfect subjunctive. Tendrías mejores éxitos si estudiaras. Compraría entradas si tuviera tiempo. Possible, but not certain.

4

Unrealized past, effect today

Condicional Simple + SI + Pluperfect subjunctive. Ahora el problema estaría resuelto si me lo hubieras dicho. Serías médico si hubieras estudiado medicina.

5

Fully hypothetical past

Condicional Compuesto + SI + Pluperfect subjunctive. Habría ido contigo si hubiera tenido tiempo. It didn't happen, and no longer can.

The table that settles everything

Condicional Simple + SI + Imperfect subj.

present/future → present/future

Condicional Simple + SI + Pluperfect subj.

present → past

Condicional Compuesto + SI + Pluperfect

past → past + Imperfect: past → present

First locate when the consequence happens, then when the condition holds: the table gives you the tenses.

The last case — past action, cause still true

Condicional Compuesto + SI + Imperfect subjunctive: No habrías cometido tantos errores si supieras las reglas. The condition still holds today (he doesn't know the rules), the consequence sits in the past (he made them).

Never SI before a Condicional. Never.