

## If-clause

There are three types of if-sentences: Type I, Type II and Type III.

Type	Condition
I	realizable
II	theoretical realizable
III	unrealizable (too late)

Development:

Type	If-sentence	Main clause
I	<b>Simple Present</b>	will-future / modal verb + infinitive
II	<b>Simple Past</b>	would (could, might) + infinitive
III	<b>Past Perfect</b>	could + might + would + have + past participle

Examples:

If I <b>learn</b> how to swim, Wenn ich lerne, wie man schwimmt,	I <b>will travel</b> to the Mediterranean Sea. werde ich zum Mittelmeer reisen.
If I <b>learn</b> how to swim, Wenn ich lerne, wie man schwimmt,	I <b>can travel</b> to the Mediterranean Sea. kann ich zum Mittelmeer reisen.
If I <b>learned</b> how to swim, Wenn ich lernte, wie man schwimmt,	I <b>could travel</b> to the Mediterranean Sea, könnte ich zum Mittelmeer reisen.
If I <b>had learned</b> how to swim, Wenn ich gelernt hätte, wie man schwimmt,	I <b>could have travelled</b> to the MS. hätte ich zum Mittelmeer reisen können.

## When and if

Between when and if, there's a difference:

→ You use "when" in a sentence where you're sure that something happens.

Example:

When I'm in London, I'll visit you.

**Sobald** ich in London bin, werde ich dich besuchen.

→ You use "if" in a sentence where you aren't sure that something happens.

Example:

If I'm in London, I'll visit you.

**Falls** ich in London bin, werde ich dich besuchen.

When you tell a fact, you can use "when" and "if" without a big difference:

**When** you heat ice, it melts.

**If** you heat ice, it melts.

To write a short if-sentence, you can use "in case of":

**If** there's a fire, leave the room quickly!

**In case of** fire, leave the room quickly!