



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

First Conditional in Environmental Issues

Environment and Conservation | If + present, will | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	What will happen if people waste too much water?
2	What will happen if schools recycle more paper?
3	What will happen if cities build more cycle lanes?
4	What will happen if people ignore climate change?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Small Actions, Real Results

If people **reduce** food waste, they **will save** money and help the environment. If schools recycle more paper, they **will send** less rubbish to landfill.

Cities can also make a difference. If local councils **improve** public transport, more people **will leave** their cars at home. If they build safe cycle lanes, commuting may become healthier and cleaner.

However, environmental problems will get worse if people **do not act** soon. If young people learn about sustainability at school, they **will be** more prepared to make responsible choices in the future.

3. Notice the pattern

Use the first conditional for a real possible future result: if + present simple, will + infinitive.

Use	Form / signal	Example
If clause	present simple	If people recycle more,
Result clause	will + infinitive	they will reduce waste.
Negative if clause	if + do/does not	If people do not act soon,
Comma rule	comma after first if clause	If we save energy, pollution will fall.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	If students / recycle / more plastic, the school / reduce / waste.	if + present, will	
2	If people / use / less energy, pollution / fall.	if + present, will	
3	If cities / build / cycle lanes, more people / cycle.	if + present, will	
4	If we / not protect / wildlife, some animals / disappear.	if + present, will	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Discuss what will happen if people make one positive environmental change.
Writing	Write a short paragraph about how schools can become greener. Use at least three first conditional sentences.
Reading	Find the first conditional sentences in the context text and underline the result clause.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	If people will recycle more, they will reduce waste.	
2	If schools recycle paper they will save resources.	
3	If cities builds cycle lanes, people will cycle more.	
4	If we don't protect wildlife, animals disappear.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. What will happen if schools stop using single-use plastic?
2. What will happen if people waste less food?
3. What will happen if public transport becomes cheaper?
4. What will happen if young people learn more about conservation?

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4. Build accurate sentences

1. If students recycle more plastic, the school will reduce waste.
 2. If people use less energy, pollution will fall.
 3. If cities build cycle lanes, more people will cycle.
 4. If we do not protect wildlife, some animals will disappear.
- Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. If people recycle more, they will reduce waste.
2. If schools recycle paper, they will save resources.
3. If cities build cycle lanes, people will cycle more.
4. If we don't protect wildlife, animals will disappear.

Notes for checking

1. If clause: present simple - If people recycle more,
2. Result clause: will + infinitive - they will reduce waste.
3. Negative if clause: if + do/does not - If people do not act soon,
4. Comma rule: comma after first if clause - If we save energy, pollution will fall.