

El Tenso Condicional

We use the Conditional Tense to express what *would* take place, as we say in English. For example:

Lo compraría, pero no tengo dinero.
Yo comería, pero no tengo hambre.
Me gustaría ir a la tienda.

I would buy it, but I don't have money.
I would eat, but I'm not hungry.
It would please me to go to the store.

There is only one set of endings in the Conditional, regardless of the verb type (AR, ER, or IR) and it is not necessary to drop these last two letters—simply add the endings to the infinitive. Also notice that all endings have an accent mark.

AR, ER, IR endings		hablar = to talk	
ía	íamos	hablaría	hablaríamos
ías	íais	hablarías	hablaríais
ía	ían	hablaría	hablarían

Here are some more examples:

Preferiría comer a las ocho.
¿Saltarías de la puente?

I would prefer to eat at eight o'clock.
Would you jump from the bridge?

We also use the Conditional Tense to **insist politely** or **make polite requests**:

¿Firmaría usted el cheque, por favor?
¿Sabría usted el nombre de esa mujer?

Would you sign the check, please?
Would you know the name of that woman?

There are various irregular verb conjugations in the Conditional Tense. Note: these are very similar to irregulars in the Future Tense.

Decir (to say)	diría, dirías, diría, diríamos, diríais, dirían
Tener (to have)	tendría, tendrías, tendría, tendríamos, tendríais, tendrían
Poner (to put/place)	pondría, pondrías, pondría, pondríamos, pondríais, pondrían
Poder (to be able/can)	podría, podrías, podría, podríamos, podríais, podrían
Querer (to want)	querría, querrías, querría, querríamos, querríais, querían
Salir (to go out/leave)	saldría, saldrías, saldría, saldríamos, saldríais, saldrían
Hacer (to make/do)	haría, harías, haría, haríamos, haríais, harían
Haber (to have [done])	habría, habrías, habría, habríamos, habríais, habrían
Venir (to come)	vendría, vendrías, vendría, vendríamos, vendríais, vendrían

We often find the Conditional used in conjunction with the *Past Imperfect Subjunctive* mood to express **causality** (if-then statements). The *Past Imperfect Subjunctive* always comes after the word "si" (if) and the Conditional occurs in the "then" part of the sentence, which might only be implied. For example:

Si viviéramos en Miami, iríamos a la playa.
Iríamos a la playa si viviéramos en Miami.

If we lived in Miami, we would go to the beach.
We would go to the beach if we lived in Miami.

Si tuviera un millón de dólares, viajaría.
Viajaría si tuviera un millón de dólares.

If I had a million dollars, I would travel.
I would travel if I had a million dollars.

Quiz

Translate the following sentences using the Conditional Tense.

1. I would like some tacos.
2. She would never wash her face.
3. Would you have time to clean the garage?
4. Mom would always make a cake for Christmas.
5. When would you guys go?
6. We're so hungry, we would eat anything.
7. I wouldn't talk so loud, Juanito.
8. Mr. Snuggins would never accept the truth.
9. What would you do for a Klondike Bar?
10. Why would she suddenly change her mind?