

FRENCH PRESENT CONDITIONAL

COULD SHOULD WOULD



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Present French Conditional

The present conditional is used to express “would, should, could”. Just like in English, using the conditional tense means that something is only going to happen if a certain condition is met.

Present Conditional - What Does It Mean?

Should do something	Devoir in the conditional + infinitive
Could do something	Pouvoir in the conditional + infinitive
Would do something	Main verb in the conditional

To form the conditional, usually just use the infinitive of the verb, and add the [IMPERFECT](#) endings. There are some irregular conditional stems. They're exactly the same as the irregular stems for the [SIMPLE FUTURE](#) tense (see the chart below).

je + stem + ais	nous + stem + ions
tu + stem + ais	vous + stem + iez
il / elle / on + stem + ait	ils / elles + stem + aient

Using the present French conditional in SI CLAUSES

Usually we end up using the French conditional in IF...THEN clauses. You will see this type of SI CLAUSE in use in the examples below. Click here for a complete lesson on [SECOND CONDITIONAL IF...THEN CLAUSES](#). There you will find plenty of exercises, a

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video tutorial in which I will guide you through the exercises, and a quiz for you to take at the end.

Regular Verbs

RE VERBS

<p>je voyagerais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Si je pouvais, je voyagerais en Espagne. • If I could, I would travel to Spain. 	<p>nous voyagerions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Si nous voulions, nous voyagerions ensemble. • If we wanted to, we would travel together.
<p>tu voyagerais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Si tu avais beaucoup d'argent, tu voyagerais partout. • If you had a lot of money, you would travel everywhere. 	<p>vous voyageriez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Si vous preniez le temps, vous voyageriez plus souvent. • If you took the time, you would travel more often.
<p>il voyagerait</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S'il habitait en France, il voyagerait en Allemagne. • If he lived in France, he would travel to Germany. 	<p>ils voyageraient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S'ils parlaient espagnol, ils voyageraient en Espagne. • If they spoke Spanish, they would travel to Spain.

IR VERBS

<p>je partirais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • À ta place je partirais un peu en avance. • If I were you I would leave a little early. 	<p>nous partirions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Si tu vivais au Canada, nous partirions te voir. • If you lived in Canada, we would come to see you.
<p>tu partirais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est-ce que tu partirais sans moi? 	<p>vous partiriez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Si vous gagniez un million de dollars, partiriez-vous en voyage?

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would you leave without me? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you won a million dollars, would you leave (go) on a trip?
<p>il partirait</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S'il m'aimait, il partirait avec moi. • If he loved me, he would leave with me. 	<p>ils partiraient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S'ils n'étaient pas contents, ils partiraient. • If they weren't happy, they would leave.

RE VERBS

<p>je prendrais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Je prendrais un parapluie s'il pleuvait. • I would take an umbrella if it were raining. 	<p>nous prendrions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nous prendrions l'avion si nous étions pressés. • We would take the plane if we were in a hurry.
<p>tu prendrais</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qu'est-ce que tu prendrais si tu n'avais pas très faim? • What would you take (have) if you weren't very hungry? 	<p>vous prendriez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vous prendriez une salade si vous étiez au régime. • You would take (have) a salad if you were on a diet.
<p>il prendrait</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Il prendrait quelque chose à boire s'il avait soif. • He would take (have) something to drink if he were thirsty. 	<p>ils prendraient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S'ils n'avaient pas de voiture, ils prendraient le métro. • If they didn't have a car, they would take the metro.

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Most common irregular future and conditional stems

infinitive	stem	future	translation
aller	-ir	j'irai	I will go
avoir	-aur-	j'aurai	I will have
courir	courr-	je courrai	I will run
devoir	devr-	je devrai	I will have to
envoyer	enverr-	j'enverrai	I will send
être	ser-	je serai	I will be
faire	fer-	je ferai	I will do / I will make
falloir	faudr-	il faudra	It will be necessary
mourir	mourr-	je mourrai	I will die
obtenir	obtiendr-	j'obtiendrai	I will obtain
pleuvoir	pleuvr-	il pleuvra	It will rain
pouvoir	pouurr-	je pourrai	I will be able to
recevoir	recevr-	je recevrai	I will receive
savoir	saur-	je saurai	I will know
tenir	tiendr-	je tiendrai	I will hold
venir	viendr-	je viendrai	I will come
voir	verr-	je verrai	I will see
vouloir	voudr-	je voudrai	I will want

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