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Implied conditionals

Sometimes, in English, we use the idea of a conditional without using "if".

It doesn't mean that we omit the if, we simply use other ways to express the same idea.

The "if" part, the "if" clause will not be present in the implied conditionals.

The "If" clause is implied, but not stated.

The result clause, the consequence clause, will still be following the conditional rules, but the "if" part will not be there.

We commonly use words such as Otherwise (= on the contrary), but, unless (= if not) in the implied conditional sentences.

I would have visited you, but I didn't know you were home.

We can restructure this sentence to become a regular conditional clause:

I would have visited you if I had known you were home.

It wouldn't have been a good meeting without Rosa.

It wouldn't have been a good meeting if Rosa hadn't been there.

I would have answered the phone, but I didn't hear it ring.

I would have answered the phone if I had heard it ring.

I couldn't have finished the work without your help.

I couldn't have finished the work if you hadn't helped me.

I would have gone to Nepal last summer, but I didn't have enough money.

I would have gone to Nepal last summer if I had enough money.

I stepped on the brakes. Otherwise, I would have hit the child on the bicycle.

If I hadn't stepped on the brakes, I would have hit the child on the bicycle.

The meaning of **otherwise** in the implied conditional result clause is negative.

So, when I restructure the sentence into a regular conditional one, the If clause needs to be in the negative form.

Louise turned down the volume. Otherwise, the neighbors would have complained about the noise.

If Louise hadn't turned down the volume, the neighbors would have complained about the noise.

I set my alarm for 6 every morning. Otherwise, I would be late for work.

If I hadn't set my alarm for 6 every morning, I would be late for work.

