# CONDITIONALS (1ST-2ND)

When we are talking about events and their possible results, we use **if**. The structure we use depends on the reality of the event.

**Real events**

**(1st type)**

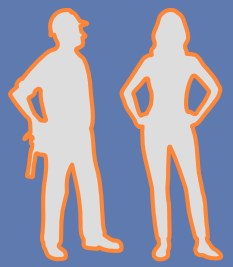
**Unreal events**

**(2nd type)**

When it is possible that they will take the bus, she says:

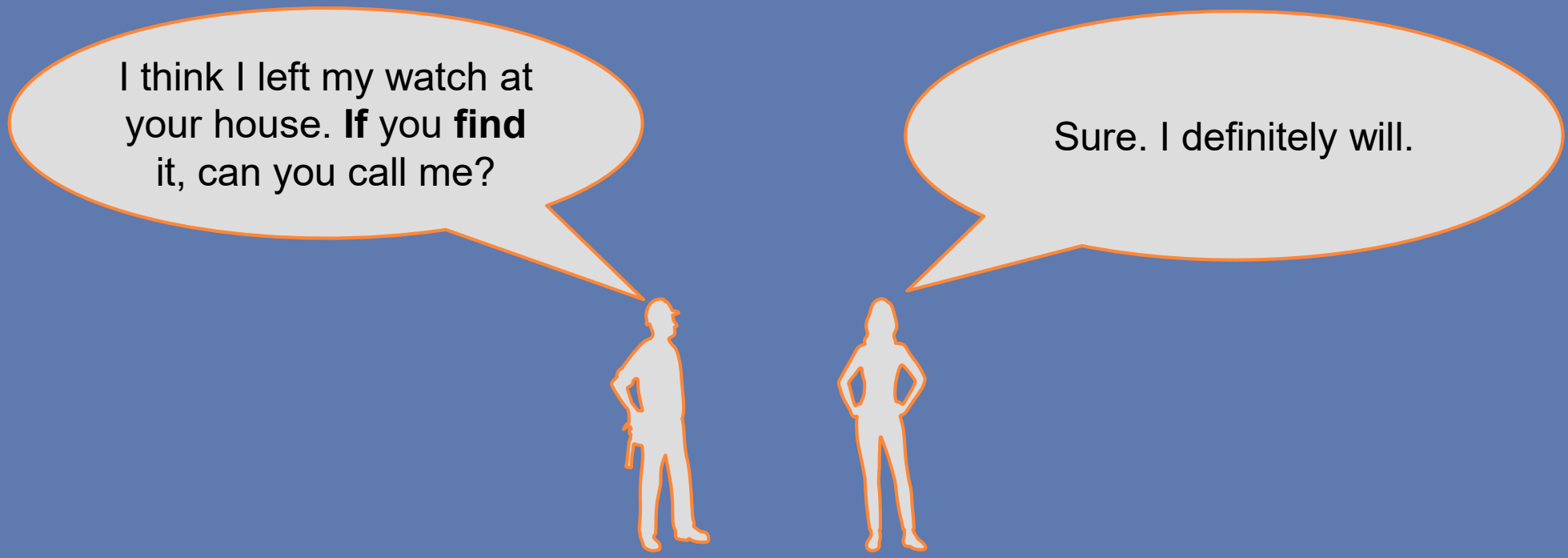
Shall we take the bus or the train?

**If** we **take** the bus, it will be cheaper.



**Real events**

**(1st type)**




‘If you find it,’ is the **if clause**
and
‘can you call me?’ is the **main clause.**

Note that
If clauses don't make sense
on their own,
But main clauses make sense.

**E.g. I will change my seat…**

**[if nobody shows up]…**

Note that
in 1st type conditionals
**if clause** must be **present simple**,
and the **main clause** will.

**E.g. If they arrive early,**
**I will call you.**

**Or a modal:**
**E.g. If they arrive early,**
**I might call you.**

We use the 2nd type to dream about things…

If I were an astronaut in space, I'd never come back.

If I were rich, I would buy an island.

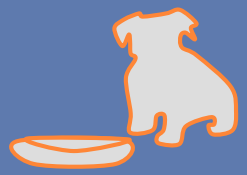
**Unreal events**

**(2nd type)**

Or to give advice…

If I were you, I wouldn't eat that.

Woof!



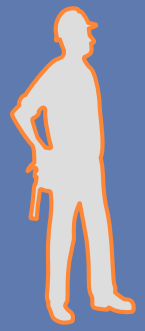
Note that
in 2nd type conditionals
**if clause** must be **past simple**,
and the **main clause** would.

**E.g. If she found my wallet,**
**She would let me know.**

Also, the meaning is not ‘past’
even though
we use past simple.

It's also possible to use could or might in the main clause.

If I won a lot of money, I might buy a house.



We could go out if it stopped raining.

**Exercises**

1. Be careful with that vase. If you _____ (drop) it, it would break into small pieces.
2. If I see Sarah, I _____ (tell) her to call you
3. I don't think he'll fail the exam. I'd be very surprised if he _____ (fail).
4. If you _____ (go) right at the end of this street, you'll see a bank on your left.
5. I don't think Gary and Emma will get married. I _____ (be) amazed if they did.
6. I _____ (call) them now if I were you.
7. If he _____ (be) the manager, he would never do such things.
8. I don't know what I _____ (do) if I lost my passport.
9. If I had to take this test, I _____ (prepare) for it in advance.
10. I don't expect to lose my job but if that _____ (happen) , I'd have to find another one.

**Answer Key**

1. Be careful with that vase. If you **dropped** (drop) it, it would break into small pieces.
2. If I see Sarah, I **will tell** (tell) her to call you
3. I don't think he'll fail the exam. I'd be very surprised if he **failed** (fail).
4. If you **go** (go) right at the end of this street, you'll see a bank on your left.
5. I don't think Gary and Emma will get married. I**'d be**(be) amazed if they did.
6. I**'d call** (call) them now if I were you.
7. If he **were** (be) the manager, he would never do such things.
8. I don't know what I **would do** (do) if I lost my passport.
9. If I had to take this test, I **would prepare** (prepare) for it in advance.
10. I don't expect to lose my job but if that **happened** (happen) , I'd have to find another one.