

Verb tense in <i>if</i> clause	Verb tense in main clause	Examples
present	<u>present</u>	If we give you a file (to translate), you <u>translate</u> it.
present	<u>future</u>	If we give you a file (to translate), you <u>will translate</u> it.
present	<u>imperative</u>	If we give you a file (to translate), <u>translate</u> it.
past	<u>past modal</u>	If we gave you a file (to translate), you <u>would translate</u> it.
past perfect	<u>past modal perfect</u>	If we had given you a file (to translate), you <u>would have translated</u> it.

Reminder:

Generally the future or past modals are not used in the **if clause** except when we are making a very polite request **or** in a case where the **if** has the meaning of **whether**.

Examples:

If you **will do** this just this once, I **will be** eternally grateful. (polite request)

If you **would hold** the door for me, it **would be** a great help. (polite request)

I wonder if it **would have been** better to follow Plan A instead of B. (if = whether)