


# Real Conditionals: Present and Future

## Media in the United States

### 1 Grammar in the Real World

**A** Do all the news sources you read (websites, magazines, newspapers, etc.) have similar viewpoints about current topics and issues? Read the article about the news media in the United States. What is the writer's view of the media?



## The Influence of Media on Public Opinion

The media<sup>1</sup> provide news from a wide range of sources with a variety of viewpoints. Some sources provide a more balanced look at the issues than others. These more balanced news sources offer a deeper understanding of the issues without the influence of the views of political parties. This unbiased<sup>2</sup> view of the news may appear to align<sup>3</sup> with the values of Americans, but is it, in fact, what Americans really want? Some political analysts claim that many Americans tend to read, watch, and listen to the news media that reflect their own views. **If people surround themselves with media that reflect only their beliefs,** they may not be exposed to opposing ideas. The media, in this case, are not informing people, but reinforcing that their view of the world is right.

One example of this occurs during an economic crisis. **If people watch certain TV news stations,** they will hear mostly positive things about the president's solutions. **If they support the president's policies,** they may also choose to read online news pages with a similar view. These websites likely explain how the crisis was caused by politicians from the opposing party. **If those people read only these websites,** they might be convinced that the crisis was the fault of the opposing party. They might conclude that the president was doing a wonderful job. On the other hand, **if people mostly disagree with the president's policies,** they often

### President Proposes Solution to Economic Troubles

NATIONAL NEWS

### Presidential Policies Cause Economic Troubles

<sup>1</sup>media: newspapers, magazines, television, and radio, considered as a group | <sup>2</sup>unbiased: not influenced by personal opinion | <sup>3</sup>align: agree with and support something or someone