CLAIMS

1. An air conditioner that comprises an indoor unit and an outdoor unit and in which the indoor unit activates the outdoor unit, wherein

upon activating the outdoor unit, the indoor unit determines whether communication is capable of being established between the indoor unit and the outdoor unit, and, when the communication is not capable of being established, the indoor unit performs, without reactivating the outdoor unit, self-reception of receiving a first signal generated by the indoor unit and determines whether to reactivate the outdoor unit on a basis of a result of the self-reception.

2. The air conditioner according to claim 1, wherein when the indoor unit is capable of receiving the first signal in the self-reception, the indoor unit determines that a communication operation in the indoor unit is normal.

3. The air conditioner according to claim 1, wherein when the indoor unit is capable of receiving the first signal in the self-reception, the indoor unit waits for a second signal generated by the outdoor unit to be input, and, when the indoor unit is not capable of receiving the second signal, the indoor unit determines that a communication error occurs without reactivating the outdoor unit.

4. The air conditioner according to claim 1, wherein when the indoor unit is capable of receiving the first signal in the self-reception, the indoor unit waits for a second signal generated by the outdoor unit to be input, and, when the indoor unit is capable of receiving the second signal,

the indoor unit performs steady communication between the indoor unit and the outdoor unit.

5. The air conditioner according to claim 1, wherein when the indoor unit is not capable of receiving the first signal in the self-reception, the indoor unit reactivates the outdoor unit.

6. The air conditioner according to any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein

the indoor unit and the outdoor unit are connected together via three lines including a power line, a power/signal common line, and a signal line,

the indoor unit and the outdoor unit each include a transmitting unit and a receiving unit,

the transmitting unit and the receiving unit of the indoor unit and the transmitting unit and the receiving unit of the outdoor unit are inserted in series between the power/signal common line and the signal line to form a current loop, and

the indoor unit and the outdoor unit communicate with each other by detecting a communication current flowing in the current loop.