

UNIT 9

Conditionals - Wishes - Had Better/Would Rather - Unreal Past

Conditionals

Conditionals are clauses introduced with **if**. The main types of conditionals are: **Type 0**, **Type 1**, **Type 2** and **Type 3**.

Conditional clauses consist of two parts: the **if - clause** (hypothesis) and the **main clause** (result). When the if-clause comes before the main clause, the two clauses are separated with a comma.

When the main clause comes before the if-clause, then no comma is necessary.

if - clause	main clause
e.g. <i>If the weather is good tomorrow, we will go to the beach.</i>	
	<i>We will go to the beach if the weather is good tomorrow.</i>
main clause	if - clause

Type 0 Conditionals (general truth)

If - clause	Main clause
If + present simple	present simple

They are used to express something which is always true. We can use *when* (=whenever) instead of *if*.



*If/When it rains, the roads **get** slippery and dangerous.*

Type 1 Conditionals (real present)

If - clause	Main clause
If + present simple/ present cont./present perfect/present perfect cont.	future/imperative can/may/might/must/ should/could + present bare infinitive

They are used to express real or very probable situations in the present or future.



*If we **work** hard, we'll **finish** the project on time.*

Type 2 Conditionals (unreal present)

If - clause	Main clause
If + past simple or past continuous	would/could/might + present bare infinitive

They are used to express imaginary situations which are contrary to facts in the present and, therefore, are unlikely to happen in the present or future. They are also used to give advice.



Richard is daydreaming.

*If I **didn't have** to work such long hours, I **wouldn't be** so tired.*

Type 3 Conditionals (unreal past)

If - clause	Main clause
If + past perfect/past perfect continuous	would/could/might + perfect bare infinitive

They are used to express imaginary situations which are contrary to facts in the past. They are also used to express regrets or criticism.



Simon made a big mistake because he wasn't careful.

*If I **had been** more careful, I **wouldn't have made** such a big mistake.*

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Note: Type 1 and Type 2 Conditionals refer to the present or the future. The use of Type 2 Conditionals suggests that the situation is less probable, impossible, or imaginary. Compare the examples:

- e.g. a) **If I meet** Brad Pitt, **I'll ask** him about his next film.
(comment made by a reporter who is going to Hollywood)
If I met Brad Pitt, **I would ask** for his autograph.
(comment made by a teenage fan)
- b) **If I win** the money, **I'll buy** a new car. (comment made by a contestant on a TV game show)
If I won the money, **I would buy** a new car.
(comment made by a member of the audience)

◆ We use **if** to show that something might happen. We use **when** to show that something will definitely happen.

- e.g. **If** Steve calls, tell him I'll be back in ten minutes.
(Steve might call.)
When Steve calls, tell him I'll be back in ten minutes.
(It is certain that Steve will call.)

◆ We can form conditionals by using words/expressions such as **unless (Type 1 Conditionals), providing/provided that, so/as long as, on condition (that), what if, suppose/supposing, otherwise (= if not), but for, and, or (else), even if, in case of/in the event of, etc.**

- e.g. a) **Unless** you **help** me, I won't finish on time.
(= If you don't help me, ...)
- b) I'll water the plants **providing/provided (that)** I have time this afternoon. (... if I have time ...)
- c) **So/As long as** you promise to be back by midnight, you can go to the party.
(If you promise ...)
- d) He agreed to work Saturdays **on condition that** he was paid overtime.
(... if he was paid ...)
- e) 'I'll take Dad's car tomorrow night.' 'What if he needs it?' (= What will you do if he needs it?)
- f) **Suppose/Supposing** you were fired, what would you do? (= If you were fired, ...)
- g) We'd better leave now. **Otherwise** we'll miss our flight. (If we don't leave now, we'll miss our flight.)
- h) **But for** your advice, I wouldn't have been able to solve my problems.
(If you hadn't advised me, ...)
- i) Do that again **and** I'll punish you.
- j) Don't do that again **or (else)** I'll punish you. } (If you do that again ...)
- k) I wouldn't go to the party **even if** they invited me.
- l) **In case of/In the event of** a fire, sound the alarm. (If there is a fire, ...)

◆ We do not normally use **will, would** or **should** in an **if**-clause. However, we can use **will** or **would** after **if** to make a polite request or express insistence or uncertainty (usually with expressions such as **I don't know, I doubt, I wonder, etc.**) In this case, **if** means **whether**. We can also use **should** after **if** to talk about something which is possible, but not very likely to happen.

- e.g. a) **If** you **will wait** a minute, Mr Carrington will be able to see you.
(Will you please wait ... - polite request)
- b) **If** you **will go on** making so much noise, I'll send you out.
(If you insist on making ... - insistence)
- c) **I wonder if** he'll call me tomorrow.
(I wonder whether ... - uncertainty)
- d) **If** Paul **should** turn up, tell him to wait for me.
(I don't really expect Paul to turn up.)

◆ We can use **were** instead of **was** for all persons in the **if**-clause of Type 2 conditionals.

- e.g. **If** Andrew **was/were** taller, he **could** be a basketball player.

We use **If I were you ...** when we want to give advice.

- e.g. **If I were** you, I wouldn't travel on my own.

◆ We can omit **if** and use inversion in Type 1, 2 and 3 Conditionals. This structure is more common in formal English.

- e.g. a) **Should he** fail to be re-elected, it would be a great disappointment for him.
Were he more careful, he would make fewer mistakes.
Had she been asked, she would have given her permission.

1

Fill in the gaps with *if* or *when* and a verb in the present tense, as in the examples.

- We might go for a walk tomorrow. ...***if we go,***... we will take the dog with us.
- The guests will arrive soon. ...***When they arrive,***... we will greet them at the door.
- I am going to phone Sam in a minute. him, I want you to leave the room.
- I might visit Pamela tomorrow. her, I will buy her a present.
- The bus comes at eight o'clock. we will all get on it.
- She might invite us to her party. us, we will go.
- The film will start soon. I will record it.
- Mark may lend me some money. some money, I will buy that jacket.

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2

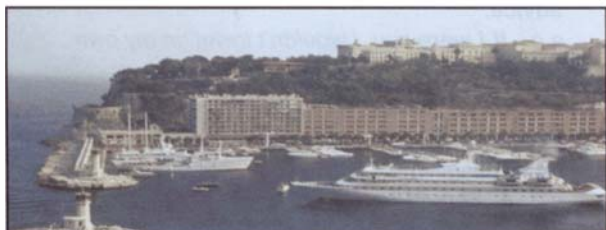
Match the items in column A with those in column B in order to make correct Type 0 conditional sentences, as in the example.

e.g. 1 - d ...If you wash woollen clothes in hot water, they shrink....

A	B
1 Wash woollen clothes in hot water.	a They die.
2 Put food in the fridge.	b It becomes ice.
3 Don't water plants.	c It gets rusty.
4 Put water in the freezer.	d They shrink.
5 Leave metal out in the rain.	e It falls to the ground.
6 Drop something.	f It stays fresh for longer.
7 Throw a pebble into the sea.	g You get green.
8 Mix blue and yellow.	h It sinks.

3

A friend of yours is going to Monaco. You have been there before. What information do you give him/her? First, match the items in column A to the ones in column B, then make sentences, as in the example.



e.g. ...If you want to stay at a five-star hotel, go to the Hotel de Paris. It's very luxurious....

A	B
1 stay at a five-star hotel ...g...	a Princess Grace Rose Garden (open every day)
2 dine out	b the Oceanographic Museum (popular with tourists)
3 visit a museum	c the Casino Square (designer shops)
4 see a play	d André's Restaurant (French food)
5 watch athletics events	e the Louis II Stadium (international competitions)
6 see beautiful flowers	f the Zoological Gardens (recently modernised)
7 observe wild animals	g the Hotel de Paris (very luxurious)
8 go shopping	h the Fort Antoine Theatre (open-air performances)

4

In pairs, ask and answer questions about what you would do in each of the following situations, as in the example. Use your own ideas.

SA: What would you do if you saw someone committing a robbery?

SB: If I saw someone committing a robbery, I would call the police.

- ... you / see / someone committing a robbery
- ... you / find / a lot of money
- ... a fire / start / in your home
- ... you / have / a headache
- ... you / see / a stray dog outside your house
- ... your boss / shout / at you

5

Read the headlines and make a conditional sentence for each, as in the example.

e.g. If the prisoner hadn't escaped, he wouldn't have robbed the bank.

- ESCAPED PRISONER ROBS BANK
- STUDENTS' HARD WORK RAISES THOUSANDS FOR CHARITY
- FOOTBALLER ROWS WITH MANAGER AND QUILTS TEAM
- ACTRESS IN CAR ACCIDENT - FILMING DELAYED
- BRAVE TEENAGER SAVES CHILD FROM DROWNING
- HEAVY RAINS CAUSE FLOODING OF CREEK VALLEY

6

Underline the correct form of the verb.

My brother Kevin has always been a fitness fanatic. He believes that if you 1) look after/looked after your body, it will look after you. Whenever anyone is ill, he 2) says/will say. 'If they had taken care of themselves, they 3) wouldn't get/wouldn't have got ill. And the same thing 4) happens/will happen to me if I 5) didn't keep fit/don't keep fit.' I would often say to him, 'If I were you, Kevin, I 6) would try/would have tried to slow down a little bit. You will wear yourself out.'

Last month, however, I went to the doctor's and he told me that I was unfit. He said that if I 7) don't start/didn't start taking regular exercise, I 8) would be/would have been in danger of becoming ill. I started going to the gym with Kevin and, after a week, I said to him, 'I feel better already. If I 9) know/had known how good it feels to exercise, I 10) would start/would have started years ago!'

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7

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 She would have come to dinner if we ...*had invited*... (invite) her.
- 2 If you had locked the door, the burglars (not/get) in.
- 3 Were I you, I (put on) some warmer clothes.
- 4 Joan (be able to) come to the party if she wasn't working.
- 5 Had I heard any news, I (tell) you immediately.
- 6 Paul (ruin) his shirt if he climbs that tree.
- 7 If Mark (be) younger, he could join the army.
- 8 She would have stayed at home if she (know) there would be so much traffic.
- 9 Should he (get) this job, he will be able to buy his own flat.
- 10 If you (put) your keys in your pocket, you wouldn't have lost them.
- 11 She will be here at eight unless she (lose) her way.
- 12 If I were you, I (not/go) out in this weather.
- 13 Emily (call) me if she had changed her mind.
- 14 If you like Tom Cruise, you (love) this film.
- 15 Dave (be) home at six o'clock, provided he catches the five o'clock bus.

8

Underline the correct word or expression.

- 1 I'll lend you the money on condition that/unless you pay it back soon.
- 2 **Even if/But for** her help, I'd be in trouble now.
- 3 **Unless/Provided** it stops raining, we won't be going to the park.
- 4 I couldn't lend them the money **even if/or** I wanted to.
- 5 Try to be here on time, **and/otherwise** we'll miss the beginning of the film.
- 6 'I'll wear Mum's necklace for the party.'
'**What if/Otherwise** you lose it?'
- 7 **Supposing/Providing** we went to London — what could we do there?
- 8 Be late again **provided/and** you'll have to see the manager.
- 9 **In case of/On condition that** an emergency, call this number.
- 10 You can go to the party **in case of/as long as** you are home before 11 pm.
- 11 Don't shout **or/what if** you'll wake the baby.

9

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: If you ...*pass*... (pass) a bakery, (you/buy) some bread, please?
B: Yes, of course. How much do you need?
- 2 A: Did you invite Tim to the party?
B: No, but when I (speak) to him, I (invite) him.
- 3 A: May I go out now, please?
B: Yes, provided you (do) your homework.
- 4 A: Mum seems very busy at the moment.
B: Were I you, I (offer) to help her.
- 5 A: Hurry up, or else we (miss) the train.
B: I know, I'm being as quick as I can.
- 6 A: Unless you (work) hard, you (fail) the exam.
B: I know. I've been studying every evening.
- 7 A: I forgot to ask Simon for his phone number.
B: If I (see) him today, I (ask) him for you.
- 8 A: Peter won't help me with my homework.
B: I'm sure he (help) you if he (have) the time.
- 9 A: I'm not going to tell him what happened.
B: What if he (find out) on his own?
- 10 A: If I (not/buy) that lottery ticket, I (never/win) all this money!
B: I know. Isn't it amazing!
- 11 A: Unless you (go) to bed now, you (be) tired in the morning.
B: I know. I'm going.
- 12 A: I need some wrapping paper.
B: Well, if I (find) any at the shop, I (buy) some for you.
- 13 A: Can I have some chocolate cake, please?
B: Well, as long as you (eat) all your dinner, you can have some chocolate cake.
- 14 A: I hate going into town.
B: So do I. Whenever I (go) into town, I (come back) with a headache.
- 15 A: You'd better apologise, otherwise he (never/speak) to you again.
B: You're right. I will.

10

Choose the correct answer.

- 1 'I can't find my wallet.'
'If I were you, I ...*A*... in my jacket pocket.'
A would look B will look C am looking
- 2 'Where is my bank book?'
'If you in the drawer, you'll find it.'
A had looked B look C looked

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- 3 '..... we get up on time, we will catch the train.'
'I will set my alarm clock.'
A Supposing B Providing C Unless
- 4 'Can I go and play football, please, Mum?'
'If you your homework, you can go and play.'
A finished B had finished C have finished
- 5 'Dad shouted at me today.'
'Well, if you the window, he wouldn't have shouted at you.'
A didn't break B hadn't broken C don't break
- 6 'Why is the baby crying?'
'..... babies are tired or hungry, they cry.'
A When B Providing C Supposing
- 7 'When ice melts, it water.'
'Everyone knows that!'
A becomes B will become C would become
- 8 'I'm going to a party tonight.'
'If I wasn't ill, I with you.'
A come B will come C would come
- 9 '..... we miss the bus, what will we do?'
'Call a taxi.'
A Supposing B Providing C When
- 10 'If I were rich, I around the world.'
'Perhaps you will one day.'
A will sail B can sail C could sail
- 11 'Have you seen Daniel recently?'
'No. If I have time, I him tomorrow.'
A would visit B might visit C visit
- 12 'Paul lost his watch.'
'Well, if he had looked after it, he it.'
A wouldn't lose B won't lose C wouldn't have lost
- 13 '..... you hurry, you will be late for school.'
'I'm nearly ready now.'
A Unless B Providing C Supposing
- 14 'If you hadn't watched that film, you nightmares.'
'You're right.'
A wouldn't have had B won't have C don't have

11

Complete the following sentences with an appropriate conditional clause.

- 1 Were I you, ...*I'd go to the police.*.....
- 2 If I hadn't met her,
- 3 Only if you work hard,
- 4 If they had been more careful,
- 5 If I won a lot of money,
- 6 Unless it rains,
- 7 I would have told you earlier,
- 8 But for your suggestions,
- 9 Should Annie phone,
- 10 If you had tried harder,

Mixed Conditionals

We can form mixed conditionals, if the context permits it, by combining an if - clause from one type with a main clause from another.

If - clause	Main clause
Type 2 If she got back late last night,	Type 1 she won't come to work today.
Type 2 If you were more sensible,	Type 3 you wouldn't have spoken to your boss like that.
Type 3 If she hadn't missed the bus,	Type 2 she would be here now.

12

Rewrite the following as mixed conditional sentences.

- 1 She didn't study hard. She won't pass the exams.
...*If she had studied hard, she would pass the exams.*...
- 2 You didn't wake me up. Now I'm late for my appointment.
.....
- 3 She isn't well-qualified. She didn't get the job.
.....
- 4 We didn't go to the restaurant. We don't like fast food.
.....
- 5 She didn't bring her umbrella. Now, she's getting wet.
.....
- 6 I don't know them very well, so I didn't go to the party.
.....
- 7 He isn't at the lecture because he wasn't told about it.
.....
- 8 They didn't take a map with them. They're lost now.
.....
- 9 The driver isn't careful. He crashed his car into a wall.
.....
- 10 I didn't buy tickets. We can't go to the theatre tonight.
.....
- 11 He didn't reserve a table. He has to wait for an hour.
.....
- 12 Sue forgot to go to the bank. Now she can't go shopping.
.....
- 13 They missed their flight. They won't arrive until tomorrow.
.....