CONDITIONALS

A. ZERO CONDITIONAL

IF+PRESENT SIMPLE -----PRESENT SIMPLE (expresses something that is always true)

*Ex. If you heat water at a high altitude, it boils at less than 100o C*

B. FIRST CONDITIONAL

IF+PRESENT SIMPLE/PRESENT CONTINUOUS/PRESENT PERFECT---- FUTURE/CAN/MAY/MIGHT/MUST/SHOULD/IMPERATIVE/HAD BETTER (expresses a future possibility)

*Ex. You will see the moon if the wind keeps blowing that cloud away*

*If you want to save, (you ought to) open a bank account*

*If you have finished your work, you may have a rest*

*If you want the job, you had better reply*

C. SECOND CONDITIONAL

IF+PAST SIMPLE/PAST CONTINUOUS--------WOULD/COULD/MIGHT +BARE INFINITIVE (expresses something unreal in the present or not expected or unlikely in the future)

*Ex. If I agreed with all her opinions, she would not respect me*

*If I were you, I would look again*

*If I were a member, I could take part*

*If you gave it another go, you might succeed*

NOTE: 1. We can use should instead of would after  **I/we** but **would** is used more often

*If I were you, I would/should try again*

2. In the example below, **would** is not used as a conditional. It is a polite form of expression used to show willingness or agreement. We could not use **would** in this way if the subject could not control the outcome through willingness.

*If you would call off your search, the suspect might turn himself in voluntarily*

D. THIRD CONDITIONAL

IF+PAST PERFECT SIMPLE/CONTINUOUS---------WOULD HAVE/COULD HAVE/MIGHT HAVE+PAST PARTICIPLE (expresses something unreal in the past that is incapable of being fulfilled)

*Ex. If he had been more careful, this wouldn’t have happened*

*If he hadn’t been reading a book, he might have heard what I said*

*I could have been skiing all day, if I had been allowed time off work*

ALTERNATIVES IN CONDITIONALS

*If you can give me 100 $, I will settle for that. (*Expresses ability)

*If I should change my mind, I will let you know (*fulfillment of the condition seems less likely)

*If it was raining, we stayed at home (for sth that was always true in the past)*

WILL in the IF clause

*If she will wait a moment, I will sort it out*

*If they won’t take “no” for an answer, we will have to reconsider*

NOTE

This use of **will** is only possible in a clause where the person concerned is able to control an outcome.

THE SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

Certain words such as **if** that start conditional clauses **are followed by verbs in the subjunctive mood.**

The present subjunctive is the same as the bare infinitive for all persons. We may also use **should+bare infinitive**

*If the jewellery (should) be recovered at a later date, you must repay the insurance money*

The past subjunctive is only noticeable with the verb **to be:** the past subjunctive is **were** for all persons.

*If he were here, he would sort out the problem himself*

MIXED CONDITIONALS

We may have a situation where the time reference of the condition is different from that of the main clause. In this case, we can have mixed conditionals

*If I had followed my friend’s advice, I wouldn’t be famous*

*If he got off the bus at the right stop, he will be here any moment now.*

INVERSION

Conditionals may be expressed in another way using inversion

*Had David answered, none of this would have happened. (If David had answered, none of this would have happened)*

*Were he to ring now, he would find all of us here. (If he were to ring now, he would find all of us here)*

*Should Hannah mention this to you, pretend you don’t know. (If Hannah should mention this to you, pretend you don’t know)*

Inversion only with: were, should, had

ALTERNATIVE LINKING WORDS USED IN CONDITIONALS

1. We can replace IF with:

**On condition that, providing (that), provided (that), as long as, so long as.**

*I will lend you my car if you don’t let anyone else drive it.*

*I will lend you my car on condition that you don’t let anyone else drive it.*

2. **BUT FOR**

*But for her persuasiveness, she wouldn’t have succeeded.*

*If it hadn’t been for her persuasiveness, she wouldn’t have succeeded.*

3. **SUPPOSING/ SUPPOSE**

*Supposing/suppose you saw a ghost, what would you do then?*

*If you saw/were to see a ghost, what would you do then?*

3. **WHAT IF/ASSUMING**

*Assuming you were offered the job, would you take it?*

*What if you were offered the job? Would you take it?*

*If we hypothesise that you were offered the job, would you take it?*

4. **EVEN IF**

*You must contribute towards the roof repairs even if you don’t live on the top floor.*

5. **UNLESS**

*I’ll get you a burger unless you mind eating fast food.*

*I’ll get you a burger if you don’t mind eating fast food.*

*I never go to this shop unless the other shops are shut.*

*I only go to this shop if the other shops are shut.*