

English 6

Sequence N°: 05

Title: Conditional

Objectives:

The students' objectives for studying conditionals fall into several key categories, aiming to equip them with various tools for both language acquisition and critical thinking. In essence, studying conditionals goes beyond simply learning grammar rules. It equips students with valuable tools for communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving, contributing to their overall language proficiency and development as well-rounded learners.

Introduction:

Conditional tenses are used to guess about what could happen, what might have happened, and what we wish would happen. In English, most sentences using the conditional contain the word *if*. Many conditional forms in English are used in sentences that include verbs in one of the past tenses. This usage is referred to as "**the unreal past**" because we use a past tense but we are not actually referring to something that happened in the past. There are five main ways of constructing conditional sentences in English. In all cases, these sentences are made up of an *if* clause and a main clause. In many negative conditional sentences, there is an equivalent sentence construction using "unless" instead of "if".

- Essentially, a conditional sentence is a two-part structure that connects an **if-clause** (also called the **conditional clause**) and a **main clause** (also called the **consequence clause**).
- **If-clause:** This part describes the **condition** or circumstance that needs to be met for the outcome in the main clause to occur. It usually starts with words like "if," "unless," "as long as," or "provided that."
- **Main clause:** This part describes the **result** or **consequence** that would happen if the condition in the if-clause were to be true.

1. The zero conditional:

The zero conditional is used for when the time being referred to is **now or always** and the situation is **real and possible**. The zero conditional is often used to refer to general truths.

The tense in both parts of the sentence is the simple present. In zero conditional sentences, the word "if" can usually be replaced by the word "when" without changing the meaning.

➤ **If + simple present / simple present**

If clause **Main clause**

Eg: If this thing happens, that thing happens.

If you heat ice, it melts.

If it rains, the grass gets wet.

2. Type one conditional:

The type one conditional is used to refer to the **present or future** where the **situation is real**. The type 1 conditional refers to a possible condition and its probable result. In these sentences the if clause is in the simple present, and the main clause is in the simple future.

➤ **If + simple present / simple future**

If clause **Main clause**

Eg: If this thing happens, that thing will happen.

If you don't hurry, you will miss the train.

If it rains today, you will get wet.

3. Type two conditional:

The type two conditional is used to refer to a time that is **now or any time**, and a situation that is **unreal**. These sentences are not based on fact. The type two conditional is used to refer to a hypothetical condition and its probable result. In type two conditional sentences, the if clause uses the simple past, and the main clause uses the present conditional.

➤ **If + simple past/ present conditional or present continuous conditional**

If clause **Main clause**

Eg: If this thing happened, that thing would happen. (but I'm not sure this thing will happen) OR that thing would be happening.

If you went to bed earlier, you would not be so tired..

If I spoke Italian, I would be working in Italy.

4. Type three conditional:

The type three conditional is used to refer to a time that is **in the past**, and a situation that is **contrary to reality**. The facts they are based on are the opposite of what is expressed. The type three conditional is used to refer to an unreal past condition and its probable past result. In type three conditional sentences, the if clause uses the past perfect, and the main clause uses the perfect conditional.

➤ **If + past perfect/ perfect conditional or perfect continuous conditional**

If clause	Main clause
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Eg: If this thing had happened, that thing would have happened. (but neither of those things really happened) OR that thing would have been happening.

If it had rained, you would have gotten wet.

If I had accepted that promotion, I would have been working in Milan.

5. Mixed type conditional:

The mixed type conditional is used to refer to a time that is **in the past**, and a situation that is **ongoing into the present**. The facts they are based on are the opposite of what is expressed. The mixed type conditional is used to refer to an unreal past condition and its probable result in the present. In mixed type conditional sentences, the if clause uses the past perfect, and the main clause uses the present conditional.

➤ **If + past perfect or simple past/ present conditional or perfect conditional**

If clause	Main clause
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Eg: If this thing had happened, that thing would happen. (but this thing didn't happen so that thing isn't happening)

If we had looked at the map, we wouldn't be lost.

If you weren't afraid of spiders, you would have picked it up and put it outside.