

### 3.4 IF CONDITIONALS

Conditional Sentences are also known as Conditional Sentences or If Clauses. They are used to express that the action in the main clause (without, if) can only take place if a certain condition (in the clause with if) is fulfilled. There are three types of Conditional Sentences.

Conditional Sentence Type	Usages	If clause	Main clause
Type- I	A possible condition and its probable result	Simple present	Simple future
Type-II	A hypothetical condition and its probable result	Simple past	Present conditional or present continuous conditional
Type-III	An unreal past condition and its probable result in the past	Past perfect	Perfect conditional

#### If Clause Type I

If+ simple present, will – future

Example: **If I find her address, I will send her an invitation.**

- The main clause can also be at the beginning of the sentence. (don't use comma in this case) Eg: I will send her an invitation if I find her address.

- Main clause and/ or if clause might be negative.

Eg: If I don't see him this afternoon, I will phone him in the evening.

Use: This type refer to future. An action in the future will only happen if a certain condition is fulfilled by that time. We don't know for sure whether the condition will be

fulfilled or not, but the condition seems rather realistic- so we think it is likely to happen.

### EXERCISES:

1. If Caroline and Sue **prepare** the salad, Philip **will decorate** the house.
2. If Sue **cuts** the onions for the salad, Caroline **will peel** the mushroom.
3. Jane **will Hoover** the sitting room if Aaron and Tin **move** the furniture.
4. If Bob **tidies** up the kitchen, Anita **will clean** the room.
5. Alan **will mix** the drinks if Jane **gives** him some of her cocktail recipes.

### If Clause Type II

If + simple past, main clause with conditional I (=would + infinitive)

Example: **If I found her address, I would send her an invitation.**

I would send her an invitation if I found her address. (Main clause in the beginning)

If I had a lot of money, I wouldn't stay here. (Main clause is negative)

- In IF clauses type 2, we usually use 'were' - even if the pronoun is I, he, she or it.
- Eg: If I were you, I would not do this.

Use: This type 2 refer to situations in the present. An action could happen if the present situation were different. I don't really expect the situation to change, however. I imagine, what would happen if ...."

### EXERCISES:

Complete the conditional type 2 by putting the verbs into the correct form. Use conditional 1 with would in the main clause.

1. If we (have) **had** a yacht, we (sail) **would sail** the seven sea.
2. If he (have) **had** more time, he (learn) **would learn** karate.
3. If they (tell) **told** their father, he (be) **would be** very angry.
4. She (spend) **would spend** a year in the USA if it (be) **were** easier to get a green card.
5. We (help) **would help** you if we (know) **knew** how.
6. She (not/ talk) **would not talk** to you if she (be) **were mad** at you.

**If Clause Type III**

If + past perfect, main clause with conditional II

Example: **If I had found her address, I would have sent her an invitation.**

I would have sent her an invitation if I had found her address. (Main clause in the beginning)

If I hadn't studied, I wouldn't have passed my exams. (Main clause is negative)

Use: This type 3 refer to situations in the past. An action would have happened in the past if a certain condition has been fulfilled. Things were different then, however. We just imagine, what would have happened if the situation had been fulfilled.

**EXERCISES:**

Complete the conditional sentences (type 3) by putting the verbs into the correct form. Use conditional 2 with would in the main clause.

1. If you (study) **had studied** for the test, you would have passed it.
2. If you (ask) **asked** me, I would have helped you.
3. If we (go) **went** to the cinema, she would have seen my friend Jacob.
4. If you (speak) **had spoken** English, she would have understood.
5. If they (listen) **had listened** to me, we would have been home earlier.

**EXERCISES:**

1. If he had practiced well, he would have got the prize.
2. If the weather is good, I will go to temple.
3. If I were a bird, I would fly.
4. If she had money, she would buy for you.
5. If you go fast, you will catch the train.
6. If I had started earlier, I would have met you at the station.
7. If you treat her well, she will obey you.
8. If the weather is rough, we will stay at home.
9. If there is a power break down, we cannot watch TV.
10. If the engine is serviced regularly it will run smoothly.

## COMMON GRAMMATICAL ERRORS

### 1. Incorrect subject-verb agreement

The relationship between a subject and its verb

Incorrect: It is a combination of factors that cause the present situation

Revised: It is a combination of factors that causes the present situation

Note: I/you/they/we these cause

he/she/it/this Causes

Note: common academic mass/uncountable nouns are software, data, information, equipment, machinery, knowledge, space, oxygen, steel, water, environment and technology these do not have plural forms; this means that information's does not exist!

Activity: Subject Verb Agreement

- Of all the countries in that area of the world, perhaps Nigeria the most potential. (have/has)
- Houses built in Victoria less than those in New South Wales. (cost/costs).
- As most sports magazines can attest, playing sports such as tennis and basketball not only mental ability but also physical strength. (require/requires).
- Common knowledge to anyone who studies science, the earth on its own axis once every 24 hours. (revolve/revolves)
- Of all the grammar points I have studied in my seven years of English, the most recent unit me the most for a variety of reasons. (confuse/confuses)

### 2. Wrong tense or verb form

The verb form that shows whether you are referring to the past, future or present

Incorrect: It was not until a sociological view of the situation was combining with a psycho-logical approach that some progress was made.

Revised: It was not until a sociological view of the situation combined with a psychological approach that some progress was made.

Activity: Correct Verb Form

a. After I had eaten my lunch, I ----- to her while she was eating hers. (was

talking/have talked/talked)

b. He has a party every weekend and his friends..... to it without fail.(come/are coming/came)

c. He told me that the sun..... with a beautiful display of colours. (rises/rose/is rising)

d. She was late and he ..... on the corner long before she came. (has been standing/had been standing/is standing)

### 3. Incorrect singular/plural agreement

Agreement between noun forms

Incorrect: Tourism have been considered one of the most important factor in the town s economic development.

Revised: Tourism has been considered one of the most important factors in the town s economic development.

Note: Uncountable nouns such as knowledge, information, advice, progress, research and machinery can be problematic.

### 4. Incorrect word form

Using the wrong form - verb, adjective, noun or adverb of a word

Incorrect: The primary emphasis of early research on leadership was psychological focused on the personality characteristics typical found among success leaders.

Revised: The primary emphasis of early research on leadership was psychological and focused on the personality characteristics typically found among successful leaders.

Note: to address this problem you need to change the format

### 5. Incorrect use of articles

The incorrect use or omission of a, an and the

Incorrect.: The meeting ended with a call for humanitarian approach to be taken over a plight of the refugees around the globe.

Revised: (general - around the globe) The meeting ended with a call for a humanitarian approach to be taken over the plight of refugees around the globe.

Revised: (specific place - in East Timor) The meeting ended with a call for a

humanitarian approach to be taken over the plight of the refugees in East Timor.

Note: if a word begins with a consonant, but sounds as if it begins with a vowel it should be treated as if it starts with a vowel, i.e. an hour, an heir

#### 6. Wrong or missing prepositions

Using the wrong preposition is a common error as most prepositions are not stressed or pronounced clearly in speech. They are also often left out accidentally in writing.

Incorrect: The study emphasised on the need of further research to ascertain the influence by television violence to young children.

Revised: The study emphasised on the need of further research to ascertain the influence of television violence on young children.

#### 7. Omitted commas

Commas should be used in compound sentences, before conjunctions, after transitions and between clauses. Use or omission of commas can change the emphasis of the sentence.

Incorrect: When it comes to eating people differ in their tastes.

Revised: When it comes to eating, people differ in their tastes.

Incorrect: My sister who lives in New York is doing a PhD.

Correct: My sister, who lives in New York, is doing a PhD.

#### 8. Too many commas

Unnecessary commas make sentences difficult to read.

Incorrect: Field trips are required, in several courses, such as, botany and geology.

Revised: Field trips are require in several courses, such as botany and geology

Incorrect: The term, "computer literacy", has become almost a clich', in educational circles.

Revised: The term "computer literacy" has become almost a cliché in educational circles.

#### 9. Incorrect word use

Using a word with the wrong meaning often due to similar spelling or pronunciation can occur when using spell check!

Incorrect: The recession had a negative affect on sales.

Revised: The recession had a negative effect on sales.

Incorrect: The purpose of there visit was political.

Revised: The purpose of their visit was political.

Incorrect: The types of information are quiet different.

Revised: The types of information are quite different.

Exercise:

There is one mistake in each sentence. Find the correct one and mark tick near it.

Article

1. (a) He joined an European University last year  
(b) He joined a European University last year.
2. (a) Mr. Prasad is the Principal and the Secretary of this college.  
(b) Mr. Prasad is the Principal and Secretary of this college.
- 3.(a) He put an 'x' on the bundle containing Xeroxing papers.  
(b) He put a 'x' on the bundle containing Xeroxing papers.
- 4.(a) His car stuck a tree; you can still see a mark on a tree.  
(b) His car stuck the tree; you can still see a mark on a tree.
5. (a) While flying over the Alps the pilot noticed the erratic reading in one of those meters.  
(b) While flying over Alps the pilot noticed the erratic reading in one of those meters.

Preposition

- 1.(a) I am tired with this work.  
(b) I am tired of with this work.
- 2.(a) Share this among you and your brother.  
(b) Share this between you and your brother.
3. (a) Kalaiarasi is senior to me by four years  
(b) Kalaiarasi is senior than me by four years.
4. (a) He came and sat besides me.  
(b) He came and sat beside me.

5. (a) She is bent upon taking revenge.

(b) She is bent to take revenge.

Tenses

1. (a) He has been ill since last Thursday.

(b) He was ill since last Thursday.

2. (a) I sat and watched my mother while she was cooking food.

(b) I sat and watched my mother while she cooked food.

3. (a) What did you do before you were coming here?

(b) What did you do before you came here?

4. (a) I bought this watch in 1984 in Moscow.

(b) I had bought this watch in 1984 in Moscow.

5. (a) Did you come to this place ever before?

(b) Have you come to this place ever before?

