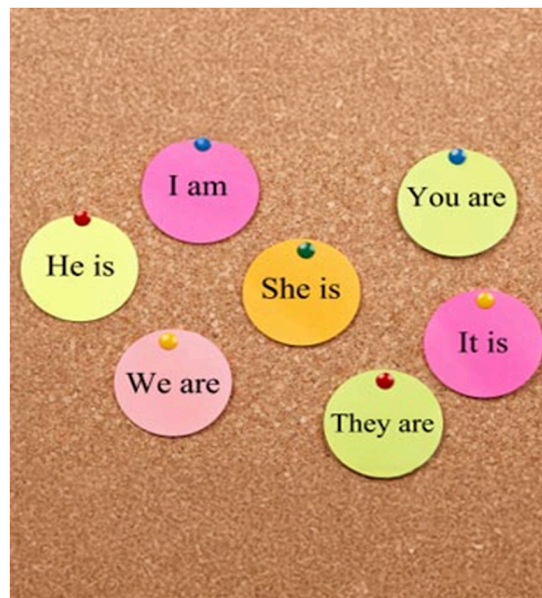


English Grammar

STUDY NOTES

Conditional Sentences



Conditional Sentences:

- ❖ **Conditional sentences**, also known as **"if-clauses,"** are used to express possible situations, hypothetical scenarios, and their outcomes.
- ❖ **Conditional sentences** are formed using clauses, where one clause states the condition (usually starting with "if") and the other states the result or consequence. These sentences link two ideas, with one depending on the fulfillment of the other.
- ❖ **Conditional sentences** express different possibilities and their outcomes.

Types of Conditional Sentences:

There are **four** main types of **conditional sentences**:

1. Zero Conditional
2. First Conditional
3. Second Conditional
4. Third Conditional

<p>Zero Conditional:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is used to express general truths or habits. • It may be related to daily and possible routines. 	<p>Example:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you heat water to 100 degrees Celsius, it boils. 2. If you don't water a plant, it dies eventually. <p>(It may represent universal truth.)</p>
<p>Structure: If + present simple(v1) + present simple(v1)</p>	
<p><i>When expressing universal truths, evidence from experiments, or circumstances that are always true, the Zero Conditional is used. The Zero Conditional only deals with the facts; it doesn't address the past or future.</i></p> <p>Example I: If you heat ice, it melts.</p> <p>Explanation: This is a scientific fact. The melting of ice when heated is a universal truth.</p>	

Example II:

If you mix red and blue, you get purple.

Explanation:

This sentence expresses a fact about colour mixing. Whenever you mix these two colours, the outcome is always purple.

Use Cases:

- General truths
- Scientific facts
- Instructions or rules

First Conditional:	Example:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is used to express future possibilities that are likely to happen. ● It likely represents “Condition and Future.” ● The incident that happens first or was supposed to happen first takes a present tense (V1 form of verb) when ‘will/shall/can’ is present in the main clause (result). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If it rains tomorrow, we will not go to the beach. 2. If we reach the airport early, we can have some coffee. <p>(Both the sentences suggest that the future depends on the first condition.)</p>
<p>Structure: If + present simple (v1) + will/shall/can + base verb (v1).</p>	

First conditional sentences discuss real and possible scenarios in the **present or future**. They describe situations where the condition is likely to happen, leading to a probable outcome.

Example - If it rains tomorrow, I will not go to school.

Explanation:

In the given sentence, it is suggesting a possible future condition (rains tomorrow) and its result (not going to school). It is not certain whether it will rain, but there is a possibility.

A genuine possibility is expressed in the First Conditional sentence. While the result is uncertain, there is a good possibility of it happening when the condition is met.

Use Cases:

- To talk about possible events in the future.
- To express predictions based on conditions.
- To set consequences for certain actions.

‘If Clause’ is in Simple Present, and ‘Main Clause’ is in Simple Future.

- **Incorrect** - If I will come to Delhi, I will meet you
- **Correct** - If I come to Delhi, I will meet you.

Second Conditional:	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is used to express hypothetical situations in the present or future that are unlikely or impossible to happen. • This type of sentence shows ‘improbability’ and ‘imaginary wish’ • The incident that happens first or was supposed to happen first takes a past tense (V2 form of verb) in the ‘If’ clause when ‘would/could/should + V1’ is present in the main clause (result). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If I won the lottery, I would travel the world. 2. If I had Alladin’s genie, I would ask to fulfil my wishes. <p>(Both conditions are likely wishes)</p>
<p>Structure: If + past simple (v2) + would + base verb (v1)</p>	

Imaginary or unlikely-to-occur situations and events are described in the **Second Conditional**. Talking about unlikely or unreal circumstances in the present or the future can be done using this form.

Example - If I were a bird, I would fly around the world.

Explanation:

In this example, an imaginary situation (being a bird) and its unlikely result (flying around the world) have been described. The speaker cannot not a bird, so the condition is purely hypothetical.

Use Cases:

- To express hypothetical or unlikely situations.

- To give advice or talk about dreams.

Note:

The degree of possibility differentiates the **first** and **second conditionals** from one another. If something is possible, the first conditional is used; if something is not possible, the second conditional is used:

Let's understand the above statement with the help of examples:

Examples of **First Conditional** (Possible Situations):

- If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel the picnic.
(It's possible that it might rain, so the picnic could be cancelled.)
- If you study hard, you will pass the exam.
(The outcome is likely if the condition is met.)

Examples of **Second Conditional** (Improbable or Imaginary Situations):

- If I had wings, I would fly to the moon.
(It's impossible because humans don't have wings.)
- If she were a millionaire, she would buy a castle.
(This is hypothetical since she is not a millionaire.)

Third Conditional:	Example
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is used to express hypothetical situations in the past that didn't happen. • It suggests the past could be something else but did not happen. • The incident that happens first or was supposed to happen first takes a past perfect tense (had + V3 form of verb) in the 'If' clause when 'would/should/could have' is present in the main clause that expresses the hypothetical situation that could have happened. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If you had studied harder, you would have passed the exam. 2. If she had seen you, she would have stopped her car. (The outcomes show that the first condition did not happen.)

<p>Structure: If + past perfect (had + v3) + would/should/could have + past participle (v3)</p>	
<p>The Third Conditional is used to describe past events that did not occur. It is used to express regrets, insight, or what may have happened in the past if a certain condition had been met.</p> <p>Example - If I had saved more money, I would have bought a bike.</p> <p>Explanation: The speaker talks about an unreal past condition. He did not save enough money, so the result (buying a bike) did not happen.</p> <p>Use chances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss regrets or lost chances. • To talk about various results of previous incidents. • To convey what may have occurred if the past had been different. 	

<p>Common Errors to Avoid in Conditional Sentences</p>
<p>❖ <u>Incorrect Tense Usage:</u></p> <p>Avoid using the wrong tenses in the condition and result clauses. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect: If you will attend the class, I will attend it too. • Correct: If you attend the class, I will attend it too. <p>❖ <u>Mixing Conditionals Incorrectly:</u></p> <p>Unless you are intentionally using a Mixed Conditional structure, avoid combining the parts of various conditionals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorrect: If I would have had an invitation, I would go. • Correct: If I had an invitation, I would go.

Inversion:

1st case:

In formal English, the "if" clause can be inverted in the **second** and **third** conditionals for emphasis.

- For example, Were I you, I would apologise.

2nd case:

In this type of sentence, 'If' can be replaced by 'had'.

Structure:

Had + Subject + V3 + object, subject + would + have + V3

- **Example:** Had I seen you, I would have stopped my car.

THE OTHER TYPES OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES:

1) Imaginative sentences:

Structure: If + subject + were, subject + would + V1.

- Example: If I **were** a bird, I **would** fly in the sky.

2) Imaginative sentences involving all subjects:

In this case, 'were' will be used. 'Was' will not be used for the following words given below in the table.

If
As though
In case
As if
Would that
I wish

Example:

- Incorrect - She scolded me as if she was my boss.
- Correct - She scolded me as if she were my boss.

3) 'If clause' sentences:

In this case, the following words given below in the table can also be used instead of the 'if'.

Unless
So long
As soon as
When
Provided
Suppose

Examples:

- **Unless** you study, you will not pass.
- **Provided** you know the rules, you can bypass them.

Note:-

While using “**Unless**”, “**not**” can not be used along with it.

- ‘Unless you study’, we mean ‘If you do not study.’
- **Structure:** Unless + affirmative = If + negative.

4) Use of ‘when’:

In **conditional sentences**, we do not use “**will**” or “**shall**” after “**when**” in the if/when clause. Instead, we use the **present tense** to refer to future actions, as the clause expresses a condition or time in which the action will occur.

For example:

- Incorrect - When you will go to the class, give me a ring
- Correct - When you go to the class, give me a ring.
- Incorrect: “When the movie will end, call me.”
- Correct: “When the movie ends, call me.”