

UNIT 10 SPORT

Conditionals review; mixed conditionals

Zero conditional

We use the zero conditional when speaking of facts and what is generally considered to be true.

The part of the sentence describing the result can be used before the part describing the condition. Then we don't use a comma.

Plants die if we don't water them.

We can use *when* instead of *if*.

When I drink coffee before bedtime, I never sleep.

First conditional

We use the first conditional to talk about a real or very likely future action or situation and its probable result. In the condition clause, *if* is followed by the present simple, even though the verb refers to the future.

If we miss the train, we'll be late for school.

NOT *If we'll miss the train ...*

In the result clause, we can use other modal verbs apart from *will*.

If you tell the truth all the time, you might offend people.

It is possible to use a negative verb in either or both parts of a conditional sentence.

If you don't arrive on time, I won't wait for you.

Instead of *if*, we can use *unless*. *Unless* means *if not*, and is followed by a verb in the affirmative.

If shops don't do something to stop shoplifting, we will all have to pay higher prices.

Unless shops do something to stop shoplifting, we will all have to pay higher prices.

Second conditional

We use the second conditional to talk about an imaginary or unlikely situation and its imagined result. It can describe present and future situations.

If we had more time, we would visit Japan.

We would visit Japan if we had more time.

It is possible to use other modals in the result clause.

If they could see us now, they would be amazed!

We can also use *unless* in second conditional sentences.

She wouldn't move house unless she won a lot of money.

We can use *were* instead of *was*, especially in formal style.

If I were you, I would spend more time with my family.

Third conditional

We use the third conditional to talk about unreal situations in the past. The condition is impossible, because we cannot change what happened.

Consequently, the result is also impossible. *Unless* is never used in third conditional sentences.

If you had studied, you would have passed the exam.

You would have passed the exam if you had studied.

It is possible to use other modals in the result clause.

If you'd mentioned it earlier, I might have been able to do something about it.

If we hadn't taken the wrong road, we could have got there sooner.

We use *wish/if only* to talk about things that we would like to change now or in the future and to express regret about past actions or events. We use *wish/if only* + past simple for regrets about a present situation or state.

They wish they had enough money to go on holiday abroad.

I bet you wish you were lying on a beach somewhere hot.

If only I was taller!

We use *wish/if only* + past perfect for regrets about the past.

He wishes he had gone to university straight from school.

Do you wish you had been born in another century?

Wish and *if only* have the same meaning, but *if only* is more emphatic. We often explain our wishes and regrets by adding a clause before or after the *wish/if only* clause.

We could go to the beach if only it wasn't so windy!

He wishes he'd studied at university and then he'd have a better job.

1 Match the beginnings of sentences (1–6) with their endings (a–f).

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1 If you do exercise, | ___ |
| 2 I'll call you | ___ |
| 3 If you worked a bit harder, | ___ |
| 4 We won't get there on time | ___ |
| 5 We should take some sandwiches | ___ |
| 6 I wouldn't wear those jeans to the party | ___ |
| a if I were you. | |
| b unless we hurry. | |
| c in case they're not serving food. | |
| d you would get better exam results. | |
| e you get fit. | |
| f as soon as I get there. | |

2 Put a tick (✓) next to the correct conditional sentences. Correct the incorrect ones. In the incorrect sentences, only one verb is wrong.

- 1 If you told David the truth, he wouldn't believe it.
- 2 If we have time on our trip next week, we visit the famous castle.
- 3 You wouldn't like it if I tell you lies.
- 4 If you see Rachel, you'll notice that there is something different about her.
- 5 It will be a great end to the event unless something will go wrong.
- 6 We'll meet at Mark's house on Friday if we didn't meet before then.
- 7 If you were rich, you wouldn't necessarily be happy.
- 8 I wouldn't buy this unless I couldn't afford it.

3 Read the situations (1–9) and then write third conditional sentences that start with *if*.

- 1 I didn't take any water with me, so I was thirsty.

- 2 I went to bed late, so I woke up tired.

- 3 He felt cold because he didn't wear enough clothes.

- 4 I didn't call you because my phone ran out of battery.

- 5 We couldn't see the comet because we didn't have a telescope.

- 6 You didn't take my advice, so you didn't win the match.

- 7 You fell over because you didn't look where you were going.

- 8 It snowed, so we didn't go out.

- 9 I didn't water the flowers because you didn't ask me to.

4 Complete the sentences with *wish* or *if only* and the correct form of the verb.

- 1 They _____ (they/buy) that house. It needs so much work on it.
- 2 We _____ (we/have) more space to have a bigger desk in the office.
- 3 _____ (she/marry) for money, she'd never have to work again!
- 4 _____ (they/tell) the truth the first time, the police wouldn't have been involved.
- 5 I _____ (you/stop) complaining, it's very tiresome.
- 6 They _____ (we/live) nearer, then we could visit more often.

Mixed conditionals

When the time reference in the *if* clause is different from the time reference in the main clause, we use a 'mixed conditional' sentence. This is a mix of second and third conditionals in the same sentence. Mixed conditionals describe a hypothetical (not real) situation.

3rd conditional (past)

If I hadn't switched off my alarm clock,

2nd conditional (present)

I wouldn't be late now.

(I switched my alarm clock off in the past and I am late now.)

2nd conditional (present)

If she believed in ghosts,

3rd conditional (past)

that story would have terrified her.

(She doesn't believe in ghosts and the story did not terrify her.)

5 Read the sentences (1–6) and then choose the best description (a–b) of the situation.

- 1 If James was more friendly, he would have enjoyed the party more.
 - a James isn't friendly and he didn't enjoy the party.
 - b James isn't friendly, so he won't enjoy the party.
- 2 If you had paid attention, you wouldn't be so confused.
 - a I didn't paid attention, and I was confused.
 - b I didn't pay attention, so I'm confused now.
- 3 If we hadn't eaten that cake, we would be hungry.
 - a We ate the cake, so we're not hungry now.
 - b We didn't eat the cake, because we weren't hungry.
- 4 If they didn't know the hotel manager, they wouldn't have got such a good room.
 - a They know the hotel manager, so they got a good room.
 - b They don't know the hotel manager, so they didn't get a good room.
- 5 If I had a mobile phone, I would have called you.
 - a I don't have a mobile phone, so I can't call you.
 - b I don't have a mobile phone, so I didn't call you.
- 6 If they had stayed at home, they wouldn't be in trouble.
 - a They are staying at home and now they are in trouble.
 - b They didn't stay at home and now they are in trouble.

6 Complete the second sentence in each pair so it has the same meaning as the first one. Use mixed conditional sentences.

- 1 I spent all my money yesterday and I haven't got any today.
If I hadn't _____, I _____ some today.
- 2 She doesn't have a car, so she didn't drive to the beach last weekend.
If she _____, she _____ to the beach last weekend.
- 3 We love camping in Cornwall, so we went camping there last July.
If we didn't _____, we _____ in Cornwall last July.
- 4 They failed their exams last term, so now they have to take them again.
If they _____, they _____ them again now.
- 5 I didn't meet my brother at the station and now he is very angry with me.
If I _____, he _____ angry with me now.
- 6 They don't understand Japanese, so they bought a Japanese phrase book.
If they _____, they _____ a Japanese phrase book.

7 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1 You _____ (not/be) so tired now if you _____ (not/go) to bed so ridiculously late last night.
- 2 Suppose you _____ (can/be) a virtuoso on any musical instrument, what _____ (it/be)?
- 3 I _____ (come) with you this evening if I _____ (not/have) so much work to do. But I'm up to my eyes, I'm afraid.
- 4 Of course I'm interested in psychology. I _____ (not/choose) to study it if I _____ (not/be), would I?
- 5 Imagine how you _____ (cope) if you _____ (live) somewhere with no electricity or running water.
- 6 We _____ (be) there by now if we _____ (leave) a bit earlier. I did warn you about the traffic!

8 Complete the second sentence in each pair so it has the same meaning as the first sentence. Use the first, second, third or a mixed conditional.

- 1 You spent all your money in the sales. You're broke now.
If _____
- 2 I didn't know you liked Coldplay. I didn't buy you a ticket for the concert.
If _____
- 3 You didn't lose your glasses. You'll be able to read the menu.
You _____
- 4 John didn't pack the sandwiches. He's starving now.
If _____
- 5 If they don't ban tourists from the ancient city, it will be ruined in no time.
Unless _____
- 6 Mary doesn't work at home. She doesn't spend much time with her children.
Mary _____

9 Read the article about avoiding problems abroad. Choose the correct word to complete the text.

'If only **'I'd have/I'd/I've/I** thought about that before I left home!'

If you ² **travelled/would travel/travel/had travelled** a lot, you've probably said that a few times. When you're abroad, a small problem ³ **can/would/has/is** easily become a big problem unless you are prepared for it. So here are three tips that I've found useful. First, don't carry a lot of cash and always take two cards. If you ⁴ **will lose/are losing/lost/lose** one, you can still get money with the other one – as long as you ⁵ **'ll remember/'ve remembered/remembers/'d remembered** to keep them in separate places! Secondly, always buy travel insurance in case something ⁶ **goes/can go/will go/went** wrong. Otherwise, you may wish you ⁷ **would buy/had bought/bought/'ve bought** it. Five years ago, I had an accident on a trip to America and I needed a lot of hospital treatment. If I ⁸ **don't have/didn't have/hadn't had/wasn't having** insurance, I'd still be paying for it now! Finally, what ⁹ **will you do/did you do/would have done/would you do** if you were a thief and you saw a tourist with a big expensive camera and a wallet or passport in a back pocket – or an open handbag? Think about it. If ¹⁰ **you'll be/you're/you were/you'd been** standing there inviting crime, it will probably happen!