

PART 7

Conditional Sentences

INTRODUCTION TO PART 7

There are three basic types of conditional sentences in English. Each type

- expresses a different meaning.
- refers to a different time.
- uses a different combination of tenses.

Type 1 ■ Future Real

Meaning: Refers to a situation that may or may not happen in the future.

Form: If + simple present . . . , will + base form of verb

If I have any free time, I will meet with you.

(I may have some free time, but I'm not sure I will.)

Type 2 ■ Present or Future Unreal

Meaning: Refers to a situation that does not exist in the present and/or will not exist in the future.

Form: If + simple past . . . , would + base form of verb

If I had any free time, I would meet with you.

(I'm sorry. I do not have any free time.)

Type 3 ■ Past Unreal

Meaning: Refers to a situation that did not happen.

Form: If + past perfect . . . , would have + past participle

If I had had any free time, I would have met with you.

(I'm sorry that I didn't have any free time.)

Conditional sentences enable a speaker or writer to communicate many different ideas. Among them are

1. To make predictions.

If I study hard this quarter, I will get "A"s in every class.

2. To discuss mistakes in the past.

If I had studied more last quarter, I would have gotten better grades.

3. To express dreams.

If I were rich, I would travel around the world.

4. To give advice.

If I were you, I would save money instead of wasting it.

If I were you, I would not take the TOEFL test this quarter.

5. To make apologies.

If I had known you were waiting for a call, I would not have stayed on the phone so long. I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.

LESSON THIRTEEN

13-1 FUTURE REAL VS. PRESENT/FUTURE UNREAL

Forming the Future Real (Type 1 Conditional Sentence)

If-Clause (Dependent Clause)

| | | |
|------|---|----------------------------|
| If + | } | simple present |
| | | present continuous |
| | | present perfect |
| | | present perfect continuous |
| | | modals |

If John studies, ...

If John is studying, ...

If John has studied, ...

If John has been studying, ...

If John can study, ...

Main Clause (Independent Clause)

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| } | <i>will (= 'll)</i> | + base form of the verb |
| | <i>be going to</i> | |
| | <i>should</i> | |
| | <i>may</i> | |
| | <i>might</i> | |
| | <i>ought to</i> | |

he will/'ll pass the test.

he is going to pass the test.

he should pass the test.

he may pass the test.

he might pass the test.

he ought to pass the test.

1. Even though the time reference in the *if*-clause is the future, future verb forms are not used in the *if*-clause.

Correct: *If it rains tomorrow, we'll stay home.*

Incorrect: *If it will rain tomorrow, we'll stay home.*

Will can be used in the *if*-clause only when the meaning is "don't mind."

If you will have a seat (If you don't mind sitting down), I'll see if the doctor is ready to see you.

2. The choice of tense in the *if*-clause depends on the specific time referred to.

If he is studying (present), . . .

If he has been studying (present perfect continuous), . . .

3. The modal you choose for the independent clause depends on the specific meaning you want to communicate.

he will pass the test. (There is no doubt in my mind.)

he might pass the test. (I'm not sure, but I think he will.)

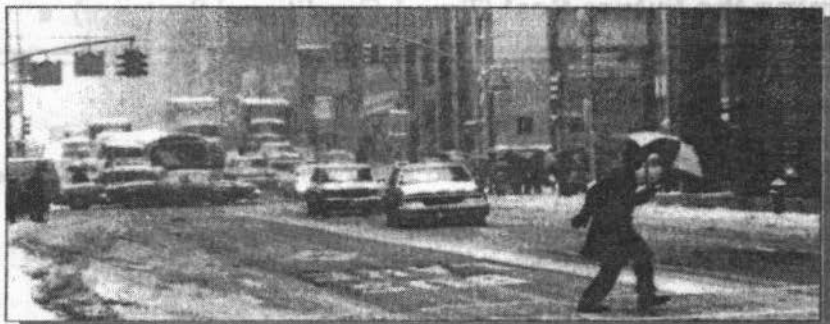
he should pass the test. (I expect him to pass the test.)

4. In writing, a comma follows an *if*-clause when it is at the beginning of a sentence. Do not use a comma when the *if*-clause follows the main clause.

If John studies, he will pass the test.

John will pass the test if he studies.

These punctuation rules also apply to type 2 and type 3 conditional sentences.



Exercise 1 ■ ■ With another student, complete the following sentences.

1. If it snows, _____.
2. If the streets are icy, _____.
3. If I have to wait for the bus in the cold weather, _____.
4. I might not go to class if _____.
5. If it has stopped snowing by morning, _____.
6. If the highway department is sanding the roads now, _____.
7. If the landlord doesn't turn on the heat in my apartment, _____.
8. If he has already turned the heat on, _____.
9. If it's still snowing when class is over, _____.
10. I'll walk home from class if _____.

Exercise 2 ■ ■ ■ With another student, suggest solutions to each problem, using *if*. Think of as many solutions as you can.

1. You need a loan, but your bank probably won't give you one.
2. Your teacher assigns so much homework that you have time for little else.
3. You sent in your college application a while ago and were supposed to hear by now whether you had been admitted. However, you haven't received any correspondence from the college.
4. For the past month a strange-looking man has been standing outside your building when you leave every morning. You don't know who he is or why he is always there.
5. A friend borrowed \$100 from you a month ago and still hasn't paid you back.
6. One of your neighbors is a music student, and she practices the violin at all hours, even late at night.
7. Your car had been making a strange noise. You took it to a mechanic, but he couldn't find anything wrong with it. The car is quieter now, but you still hear the noise.
8. You're in a foreign country, and you don't speak the language. You think you can find your way back to your hotel, but you're not sure.

■ Forming the Present/Future Unreal (Type 2 Conditional Sentence) ■

If-clause (Dependent Clause)

| | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| If + | { | simple past | <i>If John studied, ...</i> |
| | | past continuous | <i>If John was studying, ...</i> |
| | | modals | <i>If John could study, ...</i> |

Main Clause (Independent Clause)

| | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <table> <tr><td><i>would (= 'd)</i></td></tr> <tr><td><i>could</i></td></tr> <tr><td><i>should</i></td></tr> <tr><td><i>might</i></td></tr> </table> | <i>would (= 'd)</i> | <i>could</i> | <i>should</i> | <i>might</i> | } + base form of the verb | <i>he would / 'd pass the test.</i> |
| | <i>would (= 'd)</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>could</i> | | | | | |
| | <i>should</i> | | | | | |
| <i>might</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>he could pass the test.</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>he should pass the test.</i> | | | | | | |
| <i>he might pass the test.</i> | | | | | | |

1. Even though the time reference in the *if*-clause is the present or future, past verb forms are used in the *if*-clause.

Correct: *If we had the money, we would buy a car today.*

Incorrect: *If we have the money, we would buy a car today.*

Would can be used in the *if*-clause only when the meaning is "be willing to."

If you would take the time to study (If you were willing to take the time to study), *you could be an excellent student.*

2. The subjunctive *were* is used for all persons.

If I were rich, I would quit my job immediately.

If she were rich, she would quit her job immediately.

If they were rich, they would quit their jobs immediately.

In informal speech, *If I was rich* is sometimes heard.

3. The modals in the independent clause are in the forms they take in indirect speech.

4. Remember that with type 2 conditional sentences, you are stating the opposite of present truths.

[Present truth: I don't have any money, so I can't lend you any.]

If I had some money, I could lend you some.

[Present truth: I'm not concentrating, so this page is difficult to understand.]

If I were concentrating, this page would not be difficult to understand.

5. *If* may be omitted in the *if*-clause when it is followed by an auxiliary verb such as *should* and *were*. Note that the auxiliary precedes the noun when *if* is omitted.

Should I see him today, I'll tell him to call you. (If I should see him today, . . .)

Were he home now, you could call him. (If he were home now, . . .)

Exercise 3

Restate each statement in a type 2 (present or future unreal) conditional sentence.

- The weather is terrible today, so we can't have the party in the park.
- It is raining, so the grass in the park is wet.
- We can't have the party in my apartment because it is too small.
- The university will not permit us to have the party in the dorm; otherwise, we could have it downstairs in the recreation room.
- None of our friends is renting a house this quarter. Let's forget about the party.
- I don't know how to ski, so I am not going to go to Colorado during the break.
- You aren't an experienced skier, so you are not able to teach me.
- Besides, I don't have any money, so I can't go.

9. I have to finish a term paper during the break, so I won't have a real vacation anyway.
10. My roommate is gone, so I will have plenty of peace and quiet.

Exercise 4 ■ ■ With another student, complete the sentences.

1. I'd get a car if _____.
2. If I had a car, _____.
3. If I were rich, _____.
4. If I knew where to buy a good used car, _____.
5. I'd have fewer problems if _____.
6. If my roommate had a car, _____.
7. If this city had a good system of public transportation, _____.
8. It wouldn't take me so long to get to class if _____.
9. If I didn't live so far from the university, _____.
10. If I could get a single room in the dorm, _____.

Exercise 5 ■ ■ In a group of three or four, ask and answer questions based on the given words. Answer in complete sentences.

1. What / you / do / differently from the leader of your country / if / you / be / the leader?
2. If / you / can go / anywhere in the world tomorrow / where / you / go?
3. If / you / win / ten thousand dollars / what / you / do / with it?
4. How often / you / give / tests / if / you / be / the teacher of this class?
5. If / you / can have / dinner with a famous person / with whom / you / like / to have dinner?
6. What / you / do / if / you / find / a very expensive watch?
7. If / you / be / on a desert island / what three things / you / want / to have with you?
8. What three pieces of advice / you / give / if / your teacher / be planning / to visit your country?

7. They could cruise sooner if my mother were not afraid to fly.

8. She might have agreed to fly last year if there had not been so many airplane accidents.

13-2 PAST UNREAL

Forming the Past Unreal (Type 3 Conditional Sentence)

If-clause (Dependent Clause)

If + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{past perfect} \\ \text{past perfect continuous} \\ \text{past perfect passive} \end{array} \right.$

If John had studied, . . .
If John had been studying, . . .
If John had been told about the exam, . . .

Main Clause (Independent Clause)

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{would} \\ \text{could} \\ \text{should} \\ \text{might} \end{array} \right\} + \text{have} + \text{past participle}$

he would have passed the test.
he could have passed the test.
he should have passed the test.
he might have passed the test.

1. Remember that type 3 conditional sentences state the opposite of what actually happened in the past.

If John had studied, he would have passed the test. (He hadn't studied, and he didn't pass the test.)

If Leslie hadn't studied, she wouldn't have passed the test. (She had studied, and she did pass the test.)

2. The word *if* may be omitted in the *if*-clause. Note the position of *had* and *not* when *if* is omitted.

Had I known you wanted to talk with her, I would have told her yesterday. (If I had known you wanted to talk with her, . . .)

We would have gone for a walk had it not been so cold. (. . . if it hadn't been so cold.)

3. The passive voice can be used in either the *if*-clause or the main clause.

If I had mailed my application on time, I could have taken the TOEFL test last week.

If my application had been mailed on time, I could have taken the TOEFL test last week.

We wouldn't have canceled the picnic if it hadn't rained in the morning.

The picnic wouldn't have been canceled if it hadn't rained in the morning.

The passive voice can also be used in type 1 and type 2 conditional sentences.

Exercise 6 ■ ■ With another student, complete the sentences.

1. If Pat had arrived on time for work, _____.
2. Had Pat not missed the bus, _____.
3. She wouldn't have missed the bus if _____.
4. If her son hadn't been sick most of the night, _____.
5. Her son wouldn't have been sick most of the night if _____.
6. Had this been the first time Pat was late for work, _____.
7. If her boss hadn't been in the office when Pat arrived, _____.
8. Pat wouldn't have been upset about what her boss said if _____.
9. Pat would have had lunch with some of her colleagues had _____.
10. If Pat had known the day was going to turn out so badly, _____.

Exercise 7 ■ ■ Write an explanation of the meaning of each sentence.

Examples: If he has time, he'll meet with you.

Maybe he will and maybe he won't have time. I'm not sure.

If he had time, he could meet with you.

I'm sorry. He doesn't have any time, so he can't meet with you.

If he had had time, he could have met with you.

But he didn't have any free time, so he could not meet with you.

1. If I see your roommate, I'll tell him to buy a six pack of soda.
2. Had I known you wanted some soda, I would have bought it for you.
3. If you lived closer to the supermarket, you could walk there and get a six pack yourself.
4. If you had made a shopping list before you went to the store, you wouldn't have forgotten to buy soda.
5. If you're really thirsty, you can get some soda from the vending machine.
6. If my parents come to the States this summer, I'll have a party for them.
7. They could come sooner if my mother were not afraid to fly.
8. She might have agreed to fly last year if there had not been so many airplane accidents.

9. Had my mother traveled more when she was younger, she might not have acquired such a fear of flying.
10. If my parents decide to come by ship, the trip will take three weeks.

Exercise 8 ■ ■ ■ Restate each sentence, using if.

Examples: I didn't hear the phone, so I didn't answer it.

If I had heard it, I would have answered it.

I don't know her number, so I can't give it to you.

If I knew her number, I would give it to you.

I don't think I will have time to call you tomorrow.

But if I have time to call, I will.

1. I didn't take a vacation last summer because I didn't have enough money.
2. I hope I'll have enough money to take a vacation next summer.
3. I don't even have enough money to go home next month during the spring break.
4. I didn't know you were going to visit Colorado, so I didn't invite you to stay at my house.
5. I won't get an opportunity to take a vacation next year, so you're welcome to stay with me instead of in a hotel.
6. I don't have a very big house, so your friends will have to stay in a hotel.
7. Another friend might come to Colorado next year, and I think she'll like it too.
8. My roommate's cousin was in Denver last year, but he didn't write and tell us he was coming, so when he arrived we were out of town.
9. We learned later that he had lost our address and telephone number, so he couldn't notify us of his visit.
10. I doubt that he's coming to Denver again this year.

Exercise 9 ■ ■ ■ Complete each sentence, using the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. If the final exam _____ (be) easy, I might get an "A" in grammar.
2. I will certainly get a "B" if I _____ (review) all the lesson.
3. Of course, if I _____ (have) a quiet roommate, I could study more.

4. During finals, I'll go to the library if my roommate _____ (continue) to make a lot of noise.
5. If I _____ (can) move to a single room, I would.
6. I _____ (apply) to Harvard University for the fall quarter if I get a score of 600 on the TOEFL exam.
7. I might have worked harder at the beginning of this quarter if I _____ (not, be) so homesick.
8. If I had received more money from home, I _____ (get) an apartment.
9. After this quarter ends, I'm going to go to Canada if I _____ (have) enough money for a ticket.
10. I would drive to Canada if I _____ (own) a car.
11. If I had saved my money last year, I _____ (buy) a new car at the beginning of this quarter.
12. I would buy a used car if I _____ (trust) used cars.
13. If my parents _____ (be) rich, I wouldn't be worrying about all of this.
14. My roommate has a car, so if he decides to go to Canada, I _____ (not, have) any problems.

Exercise 10

Change the underlined verbs to the passive voice and make the other necessary changes in each sentence. Use by where needed.

1. Bob would not be riding the bus these days if someone had not stolen his car.
2. If Bob hadn't left the door unlocked, the car wouldn't have been so easy to steal.
3. If Bob had reported the theft right after it happened, the police might have found his car.
4. The thief might not have taken the car if Bob had locked it.
5. If someone had seen the thief, he might not have gotten away.
6. Bob still might get his car back if some garage is not painting it a different color.
7. If the police can catch the thief, he will certainly spend time in jail.
8. If every citizen reported car thefts promptly, we could solve this problem.
9. We would discourage many criminals if some people were not afraid to report crimes.
10. If the police patrolled more neighborhoods regularly, we would see fewer crimes.

11. If Bob has to buy a new car, I believe that his insurance company will pay for it.
12. If I ever see anyone doing anything illegal, I will make a report immediately.

13-3 REPLACING *If*

1. It is possible to replace *if* with *unless*.

unless + affirmative verb = *if* + negative verb

Unless you hurry, we're going to miss the movie. (If you don't hurry, . . .)

2. It is possible to replace *if* with *provided* or *provided that* when the idea of restriction is very strong.

I will lend you fifty dollars provided that you repay me as soon as your check arrives.

3. It is possible to replace *if* with *suppose* or *supposing*. (*suppose/supposing* = what will happen if . . . / what would happen if . . . / what would have happened if . . . ?)

Suppose you fail the final exam? (What will happen if you fail the final exam?)

Supposing you failed the final exam? (What would happen if you failed the final exam?)

Suppose you had failed the final exam? (What would have happened if you had failed the final exam?)

4. It is possible to replace *if* with *in case*. *In case* means that someone has something or someone does something in order to deal with an event that might happen.

We'll eat inside in case it rains.

Exercise 11

Complete each sentence, using *unless*, *provided that*, *supposing*, or *in case*.

1. We're going to rent a car when we travel to San Juan _____ we decide to visit some places outside the city.
2. We're going to rent a car when we travel to San Juan _____ we can get a mini-van.
3. _____ there's a lot of traffic, shouldn't we get there in time?
4. _____ we leave now, will we get there in time?

5. I'll take some extra money _____ we need it.
6. I'll take some extra money _____ you do, too.
7. I'll go out with you for dinner _____ my roommate has already cooked dinner.
8. I'll go out with you for dinner _____ we don't go anywhere expensive.

Exercise 12

Restate the sentences, using *unless*, *provided that*, *suppose*, or *in case*.

1. I won't be able to go to Mexico if air fares don't go down.
2. I'll be happy to drive you to Mexico if you promise to help me pay for gas.
3. What will happen if we run out of fuel in the middle of the desert?
4. Don't worry. I'll have some extra gas in the trunk of my car if we run out of fuel.
5. If you don't remember to put an extra can of gas in the trunk, we could be stranded in the middle of nowhere.
6. Stop worrying. If that happens, we can call for help on my car phone.
7. That's a good idea if someone is around to hear our call.
8. What would have happened if we had not had the car phone last year on our way to Alaska?
9. If you don't stop worrying, I'll cancel the whole trip.
10. All right, but if you discover that your car can't make such a long trip, I'm going to find out about the cheapest air fares.
11. If Tom decides to go with us, we should agree on what to charge him for gas.
12. He can go with us if he promises to leave his dog at home.
13. You know that he won't leave his dog if he can't find a responsible person to take care of him.
14. That's not our problem. We will simply tell him that he can't go with us if he insists on taking his dog.

13-4 MIXED CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

1. Both type 2 and type 3 conditionals can appear in the same sentence when one part of the sentence refers to past time and the other part of the sentence refers to present or future time.

type 3 type 2

If I hadn't failed the road test last week, I would have my driver's licence now.

type 2 type 3

If I weren't going to their house tomorrow, I wouldn't have bought them a gift.

2. Two or more individuals may respond to a statement made in a conversation or in writing in a number of different ways. For example, one person may use a type 1 conditional sentence, another a type 2 sentence, and another a type 3 sentence. A fourth person's response may mix type 2 and type 3 sentences.

Exercise 13 ■ Identify the type of conditional form(s) used in each sentence.

Examples: You would be finished now if you had used the computer.

Type 2 and Type 3

I know, but there were no computer terminals available. If there had been, I would have used one.

Type 3

It's Thursday night, and six friends are talking about their plans for the coming weekend.

- Jim:** Last night the weatherman said that the temperature was going to be in the '90s this coming weekend.
- Bob:** If it is¹ that hot Sunday, I'll² spend the afternoon in the park.
- Sue:** I would go³ to the mountains this weekend if I didn't have⁴ an exam on Monday.
- Gail:** If I had heard⁵ the weather report last night, I wouldn't have promised⁶ to help my roommate with her chemistry assignment on Saturday.
- Tom:** Jim, I would plan⁷ to play soccer with you in the park this weekend if I had already completed⁸ my composition, which is due on Monday.
- Rita:** I don't believe anything the weatherman says anymore. If I hadn't listened⁹ to him last weekend, I wouldn't have¹⁰ this terrible cold now.

Exercise 14

With another student, write responses to the sentences, using as many different types of conditional forms as possible. In some responses, only one type of conditional may be possible. Be careful of meaning and time reference.

1. You have a friend who wants to work in Spain next year, but he doesn't speak Spanish. What would you say to him?
2. Your alarm didn't go off, so you got up late and missed your final exam in grammar. What would you say to your teacher?
3. You were invited to Ali's party, but you stayed home. Three days later a friend tells you that it was really a good party. What would you say to him?
4.
 - a. A friend is going with you to a party next Saturday night. He wants you to introduce him to some women when you get there. You don't know for certain if you will see anyone you know. What would you tell him?
 - b. At the party you discover that you don't know anyone there, but your friend is still begging you to introduce him to some of the women. What would you tell him?
 - c. The party is over. You are on your way home. Your friend is angry because you didn't introduce him to any women. What would you tell him?
5. You brought a used car that you found was not in the condition the salesperson stated. You went back to the used-car lot to tell the salesperson that you were going to make a report to the police, but the salesperson had quit. What would you say?
6. Your friend was driving 90 miles per hour and was caught by the police. Now she has to pay a \$350 speeding ticket. What would you say?
7. The tuition at the college you are attending has risen three times in the last year. What would you say?
8. You need a specific book to use as resource material for your Master's thesis.
 - a. You can't afford to buy the book at present. What would you say?
 - b. The book is difficult to find. What would you say?
 - c. You found a copy of the book, but it is written in a language you don't know. What would you say?

Practice Exam

SECTION 1

Complete the following sentences.

1. If the airline pilots go on strike, _____

2. If the pilots weren't so dissatisfied with their working conditions, _____

3. If I'd known they were planning to strike at this time, _____

4. If the pilots get the changes they are asking for, _____

5. Had the public been notified of the possibility of a strike, _____

6. If the strike didn't affect people's travel plans, _____

SECTION 2

Restate the sentences, using *if*.

Example: I really don't understand economics, so I can't explain why inflation is so high.

If I could understand (OR If I understood) economics, I could explain (OR I would be able to explain) why inflation is so high.

1. Saleh didn't get to the cleaners before it closed, so he couldn't pick up his suit.

2. I don't think I will have time this afternoon to help you review the work that you missed yesterday, but I might.

3. I won't have time to help you review the work you missed. I'm sorry.
-
-
4. Rafael has not been taking the medicine his doctor prescribed, so he's going to have to spend a few days in the hospital.
-
-
5. You were speeding again, so naturally the police officer gave you a ticket.
-
-
6. I might have a party next weekend, but I'm not sure. My roommate hasn't agreed to the idea yet.
-
-

SECTION 3

Restate the sentences, using *unless*, *provided that*, *suppose*, or *in case*.

1. If the cost of new houses doesn't go down, we'll have to stay in our apartment.
-
-
2. We might be able to buy a house if we can get a large down payment.
-
-
3. What will happen if the landlord raises our rent?
-
-
4. We'll start looking for a smaller apartment if that happens.
-
-

Simple Infinitives

- A Most people want to work.
 B We stopped our work to rest.
 C To succeed is difficult.

5. If I get a good raise next year, we might be able to afford a small house.

6. However, we had better start saving more money if I don't get a large enough raise.

SECTION 4

Read the situation and write an appropriate response for each speaker. Use the type of conditional sentence indicated in parentheses.

All the students are sitting in class waiting for the grammar teacher to arrive with the tests. Instead, the director walks in and announces that the teacher is very sick and will not be able to come to class and give the test. He tells the students that they cannot leave the class, but they may use the time for additional study before their next class begins.

Student 1: (type 1 response) _____

Student 2: (type 2 response) _____

Student 3: (type 3 response) _____

Student 4: (mixed response, types 2 and 3) _____
