English III
Conditional Sentences

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Lesson 3

Conditional Sentences

- Conditional sentences or tenses, are used to describe what could happen, what might have happened, or what we wish would happen.

- Most sentences using the conditional contain the word **"*if*"**.

Conditional Sentences

- Many conditional forms are used in sentences that include verbs in one of the past tenses.

- This 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.

Conditional Sentences

- There are several ways of constructing conditional statements. In these cases, the sentences are made up of an **_"if"_** clause and a main clause.

- In negative conditional statements, the structure often uses **_"unless"_** instead of **_"if"_**.

The Zero Conditional Sentence

Present Real Conditional

- Usage: General Truth

- Zero conditional is used when the result will always happen:

    "If people <u>eat</u> too much, they <u>get</u> fat."

- The result of the *"if"* clause is always the main clause.

- *If + simple present, ….simple present.*
  (simple present….simple present)

- The *"if"* can usually be replaced by *"when"* without changing the meaning

The First Conditional Sentence

Future Real Conditional

- Usage: Possible condition and its probable result

- It describes a particular situation. First conditional is used to talk about a possible condition, and its probable result:

    "If you <u>study</u> harder, you <u>will pass</u> the exam."

- *If + simple present, …."will" + root verb (infinitive)*

    (simple present….simple future)

The Second Conditional Sentence

Present Unreal Conditional

• Usages:

1) Future event that probably will not happen; imagination or a dream.

2) Something in the present which is not possible, because it is not true.

• *If + simple past, ..."would" + root verb (infinitive)*

   (simple past....present/present continuous conditional)

The Second Conditional Sentence

Present Unreal Conditional

- Usages:

1) *"If I <u>won</u> the lottery, I <u>would buy</u> a big house."*

   "If I <u>met</u> the Queen of England, I <u>would say</u> hello."

2) *"If I <u>had</u> his telephone number, I <u>would call</u> him."*

   "If I <u>spoke</u> Italian, I <u>would be working</u> in Italy."

- *If + simple past, …."would" + root verb (infinitive)*

   (simple past….present/present continuous conditional)

The Third Conditional Sentence

Past Unreal Conditional

- Usage: Talk about the past: to describe a situation that did not happen and its probable result in the past.

  "If she had studied, she would have passed the exam."

  "He would have been on time for the interview if he had left the house earlier."

- *If + past perfect, …."would" + have + past participle*

  (past perfect….prefect conditional)