Como usar os conditionals em inglês?

(Fonte: Freepik)

As conditional sentences são frases bem comuns no inglês. São cinco construções no idioma, cada uma com as suas particularidades. Acompanhe o texto e entenda!

As orações condicionais, conhecidas como **conditionals sentences** em inglês, recebem esse nome porque precisam de uma condição, como algo que você deve fazer ou uma situação que precisa existir para que outra coisa aconteça. Elas são usadas para falarmos sobre:

- O que acontece de fato.
- O que poderia acontecer. É um provável ou possível resultado no futuro.
- O que nós gostaríamos que acontecesse, imaginando um resultado diferente para a situação presente.
- O que poderia ter acontecido, ou seja, pensar sobre um resultado diferente para algo no passado.

Normalmente, a conjunção **"*if*"** acompanha as frases condicionais, que são divididas em cinco formas de construção, cada uma com usos característicos. O "*if*" indica uma situação que precisa acontecer para que outra situação aconteça, ou seja, o resultado da ação só pode ocorrer se tiver a *"if clause"*.

Acompanhe o texto e entenda cada um dos *conditionals* a seguir!

Zero conditional

O *zero conditional* (condicional zero) é utilizado para fazer referência a verdades gerais, regras e fatos científicos. Veja a estrutura da frase:

IF + SIMPLE PRESENT – SIMPLE PRESENT

(oração condicional) + (oração principal)

Confira alguns exemplos de frases no *zero conditional*:

- ***If you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.*** – Se você esquentar a água a 100 graus, ela ferve.
- ***If you miss five classes, you fail the subject.*** – Se você perder cinco aulas, você é reprovado na matéria.

Você pode alterar a ordem das orações, como nos exemplos abaixo:

- ***The roof gets wet if it rains.*** – O telhado fica molhado se chove.

E a conjunção "*if*" pode ser substituída por "*when*", veja:

- ***When you heat water to 100 degrees, it boils.*** – Quando você esquenta a água a 100 graus, ela ferve.

Você também pode usar o *zero conditional* para dar ordens ou instruções. A sentença ficará da seguinte forma:

IF + SIMPLE PRESENT – INFINITIVE WITHOUT "TO"

(oração condicional) + (oração principal)

Confira exemplos de frases desse caso:

- ***If I get late, start the meeting without me.*** – Se eu me atrasar, comece a reunião sem mim.
- ***If I miss the bus, pick me up at home.*** – Se eu perder o ônibus, me busque em casa.

First conditional

O *first conditional* (primeiro condicional) é utilizado em frases que falam sobre uma possível situação no futuro, que tem possibilidade de ocorrer. Veja como fica a estrutura:

IF + SIMPLE PRESENT – WILL + VERB

(oração condicional) + (oração principal)

Confira alguns exemplos:

- ***If I go to London, I will visit my friend Mary.*** – Se eu for a Londres, vou visitar minha amiga Mary.
- ***If I see Charlie at the party, I'll give him a hug.*** – Se eu vir o Charlie na festa, darei um abraço nele.
- ***If it snows, I'll stay home.*** – Se nevar, ficarei em casa.
- ***I'll see the Mona Lisa if I go to Paris.*** – Eu vou ver a Mona Lisa se eu for a Paris.

Second conditional

O *second conditional* (segundo condicional) é utilizado para falarmos de situações imaginárias ou improváveis de acontecer no momento. Confira a estrutura:

IF + PAST SIMPLE – WOULD + VERB

(oração condicional) + (oração principal)

Veja os exemplos abaixo:

- ***If I had your number, I would text you.*** – Se eu tivesse seu número, te mandaria uma mensagem.
- ***If I had more free time, I would start learning French.*** – Se eu tivesse mais tempo livre, começaria a aprender francês.
- ***I would save a lot of time if I bought a car.*** – Eu economizaria muito tempo se comprasse um carro.

Third conditional

O *third conditional* (terceiro condicional) faz referência ao passado. Esse caso fala de uma situação irreal e hipotética que poderia ter sido o resultado de determinada ação. Veja a estrutura da frase:

IF + PAST PERFECT – WOULD/COULD/MIGHT HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

(oração condicional) + (oração principal)

Confira os exemplos a seguir:

- ***If we had rented that apartment, we could have lived together.*** – Se nós tivéssemos alugado

aquele apartamento, nós poderíamos ter morado juntos.

- *If you had not spent so much money, you could have traveled to New York.* – Se você não tivesse gastado tanto dinheiro, você poderia ter viajado para Nova Iorque.
- *He wouldn't have passed the test if he hadn't studied.* – Ele não teria passado no teste se não tivesse estudado.

Lembre-se de que para saber qual *conditional* usar em cada caso, você precisa ter como base o que quer expressar, o tempo da ação e qual o nível de possibilidade dela ocorrer. Confira um breve resumo sobre cada um dos condicionais:

- *Zero conditional:* 100% de certeza de acontecer. Retrata fatos científicos, verdades gerais, instruções, fatos que sempre ocorrem.
- *First conditional:* provável de acontecer. Fala sobre eventos que podem ocorrer no futuro.
- *Second conditional:* situação muito improvável de acontecer ou imaginária. Podem ser frases sobre situações que poderiam ser diferentes da realidade no momento.
- *Third conditional:* hipotética. Fala de situações que poderiam ter sido diferentes no passado.

BÔNUS*: mixed conditionals*

Também existem os condicionais mistos, conhecidos como *mixed conditionals*. Nesse caso, usamos essas formas para falar sobre algo que aconteceu no passado e que não pode ser mudado, mas cuja consequência está no presente. É uma junção do *third* e do *second conditionals.* Veja a estrutura e os exemplos:

IF + HAD + PAST PERFECT – WOULD

- ***If I hadn't worked until late at night, I wouldn't be tired today.*** – Se eu não tivesse trabalhado até tarde da noite, eu não estaria cansada hoje.
- ***If I had finished my school paper, I would go out tonight.*** – Se eu tivesse terminado meu trabalho da escola, eu sairia hoje à noite.
- ***If we had looked at the map, we wouldn't be lost.*** – Se nós tivéssemos olhado no mapa, nós não estaríamos perdidos.

Intensifiers: so, such, enough, too

Meaning and use

We use **so, such, enough** and **too** to indicate degree. **So** and **such** give emphasis and mean 'very'. **Too** means more than necessary, and **enough** indicates the right amount of something.

*It's **so cold** today!*

*That's **such a pretty dress**!*

*£150! That's much **too expensive** for a pair of shoes.*

*We'll have to buy a bigger car. This one's not **big enough** for all of us.*

We can also use **so** and **too** with **much** an**d many** to talk about the amount of something. **So much/many** means a lot of something. **Too much/many** means more than we want or need of something.

*I've got **so much** work to do tonight.*

*There are just **too many cars** on the roads these days.*

Form

So

For degree, it's **so + adjective:**

I love watching Mr Bean. He's <u>so funny</u>!

or **so + adverb***:*

He plays the piano <u>so well!</u>

For amount, it's **so + much/many + noun** to say we have a lot of something**.** Use **so much** with **uncountable nouns** and **so many** with **countable noun**s.

*What a great party! We had **so much fun**!* (fun = uncountable)

*We visited **so many places**.* (place = countable)

You can also use **so much** after a **verb**.

*I **like** his music **so much**.*

Take note: so + noun or verb

In modern spoken English, **so** is increasingly being used before nouns and verbs.

*That dress is **so last year**!* (= That dress is last year's fashion.)

*I'm **so going to shout** at him when I see him!* (so = really)

Such

We use **such** before an **adjective and noun.** If the noun is countable and singular, you need to put 'a' or 'an' after **such**.

*That's **such a cute dog**! (dog = countable noun)*

*We had **such nice weather** on holiday! (weather = uncountable noun)*

Remember

Make sure you put **a/ an** <u>after</u> **such**, not before.

~~That's a such pretty dress~~. => That's **such a** pretty dress!

Take note: so/such + that for cause and effect

So and **such** can be used with a **that** clause to express cause and effect, or reason and result.

*She felt **so upset that** she started to cry.*

*They had **such an awful time that** they said they'd never go again.*

That introduces the result. But in informal English, we sometimes leave it out.

*It was **such a bad film** he left before the end.*

*There were **so many restaurants** they didn't know which one to choose.*

Too

To indicate degree, it's **too + adjective**:

*This restaurant's **too crowded**. Let's go somewhere else.*

Or **too + adverb**:

*You're walking **too fast**! Slow down!*

To talk about an **amount** or **number** of something which is **more** than what we want or need, it's **too much** or **too many + noun**. Use **too much** before **uncountable** nouns and **too many** before **countable** nouns.

*Ugh! You've put **too much sugar** in my tea!* (sugar = uncountable)

*I ate **too many biscuits**.* (biscuit = countable)

You can also use **too much** on its own after a verb.

*Sarah drinks **too much**.*

Take note: too with negative

If we say a sentence with **too** in the **negative form**, then we mean it isn't a problem. The form is **not + too + adjective**.

*It's **not too late** to buy tickets for the final. There are still some on sale.*

Enough

We use **enough** to express that something is or isn't the right degree or amount. We put it <u>after</u> an **adjective** or **verb**.

It's **adjective + enough** in positive sentences and questions or **not + adjective + enough** in negative sentences.

*Is it **warm enough** for you in here?*

*He does**n't sleep enough**. That's why he's always tired.*

We put **enough** <u>before</u> a **noun**.

It's **enough + noun** in positive sentences and questions or **not + enough + noun** in negative sentences.

*Do we have **enough money** to go abroad this year?*

*There are**n't enough knives and forks** for all the guests.*

Sentences with **enough** are sometimes followed by **to + verb infinitive.**

*She's definitely **smart enough to become** director.*

*There aren't **enough players** to make a team.*

Might, may, could, must and can't

Meaning and use

We can use the modal verbs **might, may, could, must** and **can't** for talking about what we think is possible or true in the present. We don't know for sure, so we make

guesses and suggestions using the information that we have. Usually you can use **might, may** and **could** in the same way.

- *There **might/may/could be** life forms on Mars.*
- *There's some gas on the planet that **may/might/could suggest** this.*

We can also use **might, may** and **could** for talking about what we think was possible in the past.

- *NASA says it **may/might/could have been** suitable for life in the past.*

Might not (**mightn't**) and **may not** are used for talking about negative possibility.

- *Their information **might not/may not be** correct.*
- *They **mightn't have got** correct data.*

But **couldn't** is different. It means that something is completely impossible.

- *Other scientists say that there **couldn't be** life on Mars.*
- *The gas **couldn't be coming** from living organisms.*

We use the modal verbs **must** and **can't** in the present and the past when we believe strongly that something is certain.

- *Oh, it **can't be** true!* (I believe strongly that it isn't true).
- *There **must be** another explanation.* (I believe there's another explanation.)
- *They **must have made** a mistake!* (I believe they have made a mistake.)

Form

Present positive

The present positive is **might / may / could / must** + the infinitive of the verb **be** or another verb. Or the continuous **be + verb-ing.**

- *The information **might be** correct.*
- *They **must know** that it isn't possible.*
- *Bacteria-like organisms **could be producing** the gas.*

Present negative

The present negative is **might not / mightn't / may not / can't / couldn't** + the infinitive of the verb **be** or another verb. Or the continuous **be + verb-ing.**

- *Their information **may not be** correct.*
- *They **can't have got** the correct data.*
- *The gas **couldn't be coming** from living organisms.*

Past positive

The past positive is **might / may / could / must** + **have** + **been** or the past participle of another verb. Or the continuous **been** + **verb-ing.**

- *There **must have been** water on Mars in the past.*
- *Something **might have existed** there.*
- *Who knows what **could have been living** in that lake?*

Past negative

The past negative is **might not / mightn't / may not / can't / couldn't** + **have** + **been** or the past participle of another verb. Or the continuous **been** + **verb-ing.**

- *There **may not have been** anything in the lake.*
- *Scientists **can't have found** anything definite.*
- *They **mightn't have been looking** in the right area.*

Take note: questions

We don't usually form questions about what is possible or true with **might, may** or **must**. It's more common to use **Could** or **Do you think …?**

- *Could the data be incorrect? Do you think it's incorrect?*

Take note: can't and couldn't

We can use **can't have** and **couldn't have** in the same way.

- *They can't /couldn't have found anything definite.*

Take note: mustn't

We don't use **mustn't** to make guesses about what is possible or true. We use **can't** instead.

- *These figures don't add up. They can't be correct.*

NOT: *They mustn't be correct.*

Quantifiers: all, every, each, both, neither, either

Meaning and use: all, every each

Quantifiers are words that give us information about the number or amount of something. **All, every** and **each** mean the whole number of something in a group, but there are differences in how we use them. In this unit we look at how to use them with nouns.

All *or* **All the** is followed by a plural or uncountable noun. **Every** and **each** are followed by a singular noun.

- ***All (the) students*** *have their own rooms.*
- ***All (the) information*** *is on the website.*
- ***Every/Each student*** *has their own room.* (OR *has **his/her** own room.*)

Every and **each** can often be used in the same place, but we prefer **every** when we are thinking about the whole number in a group, and **each** when we are thinking about the members of the group as individuals.

- *I love **every painting** by that artist.*
- ***Each painting*** *is unique.*

For emphasising every single one, we must use **every** not **each**.

- *You've eaten **every chocolate** in the box!*

For only two things, we can use **each** but not **every**.

- *In baseball, how many players are there in **each team**?*

All and **each** but not **every** can be followed by *of* and a plural noun or pronoun. Notice that **each of** with a plural noun or pronoun is followed by a singular verb.

- ***All of the students have*** *their own rooms.*
- ***Each of them has*** *their own room.*

Form

With plural noun

- All (the) students
- All of the students
- Each of the students

With plural pronoun

- All of them
- Each of us

With uncountable noun

- All (the) information
- All of the information

With singular noun

- Every student
- Each student

Take note: articles

We don't use an article (**the, a/an**) before **every** or **each**.

- ***Every painting*** *is unique.*
- **NOT:** *The every painting is unique.*

Take note: possessive and demonstrative adjectives

We don't use **every** before possessive adjectives (**his, her,** etc) or demonstrative adjectives (**these, those**).

- *Tarantino's a brilliant director. I've seen **all his films**.*
- ***NOT:** I've seen every his films.*

Meaning and use of both, neither, either

We use **both (of), neither (of)** and **either (of)** to talk about two people or things. **Both** means this one AND the other. **Neither** means NOT this one AND NOT the other. **Either** means this one OR the other. **Either** is used mainly in questions and negative sentences. Here are some examples of how to use them with nouns:

- *I like **both** pictures. / I like **both of** the pictures.*
- ***Neither** picture is right for the room. / **Neither of** the pictures is right for the room.*
- *She didn't buy **either** picture in the end. / She didn't buy **either of** the pictures in the end.*

We often use **both… and**, **neither… nor**,and **either… or**.

- *She plays **both** the violin **and** the guitar.*
- ***Neither** me **nor** my brother are married.*
- *Should I wear **either** this shirt **or** that one?*

Form

With plural noun

- both pictures
- both the/these pictures
- both of the/these pictures
- neither of the/these pictures
- either of the/these pictures

With plural pronoun

- both of them
- neither of them
- either of them

With singular noun

- neither picture
- either picture

Take note: verbs

After **neither (of)** the verb is always positive. It can be singular or plural after **neither of**.

- ***Neither of*** *these answers **is/are** correct.*

But after **neither** + noun the verb is always singular.

- ***Neither answer is*** *correct.*

After **both (of)** the verb is always positive and plural. We don't use **both** in negative structures.

- ***Both of*** *these answers **are** wrong.*
- ***NOT:*** *Both of these answers are not correct.*

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