

## 4 Language work: conditional sentences

**A** Look at the HELP box and then complete these sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 If you (bring) \_\_\_\_\_ your digital video camera, we can make a movie on my PC.
- 2 You won't be able to play those video files if you (not have) \_\_\_\_\_ the correct plug-in.
- 3 If the marketing manager (have) \_\_\_\_\_ PowerPoint, she could make more effective presentations.
- 4 If I could afford it, I (buy) \_\_\_\_\_ a new game console.
- 5 If I had the money, I (invest) \_\_\_\_\_ in some new multimedia software.

### HELP box

#### Conditional sentences

We use conditional sentences to express that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition is fulfilled (see below for examples). They are introduced by **if**, **unless** and **as long as**. **Unless** means *if not* and **as long as** means *provided/providing (that)*.

*You won't be able to play audio and video on the Web **unless** you have a plug-in like RealPlayer or QuickTime.*  
(= if you don't have a plug-in ...)

There are two types of conditional sentence.

- The first conditional (for real or possible situations).  
If A happens      B will happen  
(present simple)    (**will** in positive or negative + verb)  
*If you **like** entertainment, you **will love** the latest multimedia video games.*

In the main clause, we can also have a modal (for example, **can** or **must**) or an imperative.

*If you **want** to create your own MP3 files from your CDs, you **must have** a CD ripper.*

- The second conditional (for more hypothetical situations).

If A happened    B would happen  
(past simple)    (**would** in positive or negative + verb)

*If you **wanted** to make a movie on your computer, first you **would** / **you'd** need to ...*

In the main clause, we can also use other modals (e.g. **could**, **should**, **might**), depending on the meaning.

If the verb **be** appears in the **if** clause, we often use **were** instead of **was**, even if the pronoun is **I**, **he**, **she** or **it**.

*If I **were** you, I'd get a new MP3 player.*