**UNIT 9**

**9.1 Conditionals**

1st conditional = possible conditions present and future

2nd conditional = improbable conditions present and future

3rd conditional = impossible conditions past

0 conditional = no condition

**Possible conditions Form: *if +* Present Simple, *will* + verb**

*If I see Dave, I’ll tell him to call you.* This is a sentence about reality.

*If I see Dave …* = a real possibility

*… I’ll tell him to call you.* = the result of a possible situation

**Improbable conditions**

*If I had the money, I’d buy a Mercedes.* This is a sentence which is contrary to reality.

*If I had the money …* = not impossible, but I don’t have the money.

*… I’d buy a Mercedes.* = the result of an improbable situation

**Impossible conditions**

*If I’d known you were coming, I’d have cooked you a meal.*

This is a sentence about an impossible situation. It didn’t happen, and now it’s too late to change the result.

*If I had known …* = impossible, because I didn’t know.

*I’d have cooked …* = the result of an impossible situation.

**No conditions**

*If I get a headache, I take an aspirin.*

*If metal is heated, it expands.*

These are sentences that are always true. They refer to ‘all time’, and are

called zero conditionals. *If* means *when* or *whenever*.

**9.2 Second conditional: improbable conditions**

**Form: *if* + Past Simple, *would* + verb**

**Positive *If*** *I* ***won*** *some money, I****’d go*** *around the world.*

*My father* ***would kill*** *me* ***if*** *he* ***could*** *see me now.*

**Negative** *I****’d give up*** *my job* ***if*** *I* ***didn’t like*** *it.*

***If*** *I* ***saw*** *a ghost, I* ***wouldn’t talk*** *to it.*

**Question** *What* ***would*** *you* ***do if*** *you* ***saw*** *someone shoplifting?*

***If*** *you* ***needed*** *help, who* ***would*** *you* ***ask****?*

***Was* can change to *were***in the condition clause. **If I were** rich, I ....

**If he were** rich, he...

**Use**

**1** We use the second conditional to express an **unreal situation** and its probable result. The situation or condition is improbable, impossible, imaginary, or contrary to known facts.

***If*** *I* ***were*** *President, I****’d increase*** *taxes.* (But it’s not likely I will be president.)

***If*** *my mother* ***was*** *still alive, she****’d be*** *very proud.* (But she’s dead.)

***If*** *Ted* ***needed*** *money, I****’d lend*** *it to him.* (But he doesn’t need it.)

**2** *If I were you, I’d* ***…* is used to give advice.**

***If I were you, I’d*** *apologize to her.*

*I’d take it easy for a while* ***if I were you****.*

3 When the condition is understood, it is common to find the result clause on its own.

*What would you do if you had lots of money? I****’d travel****. I****’d give*** *it all* ***away****.*

4 *Would* can express **preference.** *I****’d*** *love a cup of coffee.*

*Where* ***would*** *you like to sit?*

5 *Would* can express **a request**. ***Would*** *you open the door for me?*

***Would*** *you mind lending me a hand?*

**9.3 First or second conditional?**

Both conditionals refer to the present and future. The difference is about probability, not time. It is usually clear which conditional to use. First conditional sentences are real and possible. Second conditional sentences express situations that will probably never happen.

*If I* ***lose*** *my job, I****’ll*** *…* (My company is doing badly. There is a strong

possibility of being made redundant.)

*If I* ***lost*** *my job, I****’d*** *…* (I probably won’t lose my job. I’m just speculating.)

*If there* ***is*** *a nuclear war, we****’ll*** *all …* (Said by a pessimist.)

*If there* ***was*** *a nuclear war, we****’d*** *…* (But I don’t think it will happen.)

**9.4 Third conditional: impossible conditions**

**Form *if* + Past Perfect, *would* + *have* + past participle**

**Positive *If*** *I****’d*** *(****had****)* ***worked*** *harder, I****’d*** *(****would****)* ***have made*** *more money.*

*They****’d*** *(****would****)* ***have been*** *here hours ago* ***if*** *they’****d*** *(****had****)* ***followed*** *my*

*directions.*

**Negative *If*** *I* ***hadn’t seen*** *it with my own eyes, I* ***wouldn’t have believed*** *it.*

***If*** *you****’d listened*** *to me, you* ***wouldn’t have got*** *lost.*

**Question** *What* ***would*** *you* ***have done if*** *you’****d been*** *me?*

***If*** *the hotel* ***had been*** *full, where* ***would*** *you* ***have stayed****?*

**Use**

We use the third conditional to express an impossible situation in the

past and its probable result. It is too late! These things didn’t happen.

***If she’d known*** *he was cruel,* ***she wouldn’t have*** *married him.*

*My parents* ***wouldn’t have met if they hadn’t*** *studied at Oxford University.*

**9.5 *might*/*could have done***

**Use**

**1.*Might have done and could have done*****express possibilities in the past that didn’t happen**.

*Thank goodness you went to hospital. You* ***might have died****.*

*She* ***could have married*** *anyone she wanted.*

**2. In the result clauses of third conditional sentences:**

*If I’d told him I had no money, he* ***might have given*** *me some.*

*If I’d really wanted, I* ***could have been*** *a professional footballer.*

***3. Might have done* and *could have done* can express criticism.**

*You* ***might have told*** *me it was her birthday!*

*She* ***could have helped*** *tidy the flat instead of going out!*

**9.6 *should have done***

**Use *Should have done* expresses advice for a past situation, but the advice is too late!**

*You* ***should have apologized****. He wouldn’t have been so angry.*

*You* ***shouldn’t have said*** *she looked old. She really didn’t like it.*

***Should have done* can express criticism**. *You* ***should have asked*** *me before you took my car.*