

MEETING XIII

CONTRARY MEANINGS

A. OBJECTIVES

After studying this material, students are able to:

13. 1 understand various expressions in contrary meaning.
13. 2 understand the tenses used to express conditional sentences and wishes.

B. MATERIAL DESCRIPTION

1. INTRODUCTION

Contrary meaning refers to expressions used to say something in an opposite meaning. In English, we can find this from “wishes” and “conditional sentences”. Wishes can be recognized from verb “wish” and conditional sentences can be recognized from verb “if”.

a. Conditional Sentences

A conditional sentence indicates that something can happen if another event happens first. It contains the word “if”. The “if-clause” may appear either in the beginning or in the last of a conditional sentence.

A conditional sentence can be real or unreal. It is real when it is potential to happen. It is unreal when it depicts present or past time. Look at the example below:

- If I hadn't brought my debit card, I couldn't have paid the bill. Or
- I couldn't have paid the bill if I hadn't brought my debit card.

When the *if-clause* has a negative form, it means positive, and vice versa. “*if I hadn't brought my debit card*” is a negative clause. This gives the opposite meaning, that is “*I did bring my credit card*”. The clause “*I couldn't have paid the bill*” is also a negative, which means also a positive, that “*I could pay the bill*”

Now listen to the conditional sentences in these short dialogues. Underline the conditional markers and pick the best answers!

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 <i>Woman: George and Jeff were not at the meeting.</i>
 <i>Man: They would have come if they had known about it.</i>
 <i>Narrator: What does the man say about George and Jeff?</i></p> | <p>a. Although they knew there was going to be a meeting, they didn't come.
 b. They didn't want to attend the meeting, but they do anyway.
 c. They didn't know about the meeting.
 d. They didn't let anybody know about the meeting, so nobody attended</p> |
| <p>2 <i>Man: If Henry hadn't had so much work to do, he would have come to the concert with us.</i>
 <i>Woman: It's too bad he missed such a great show.</i>
 <i>Narrator: What does the speaker say about Henry?</i></p> | <p>a. He went to the concert because he didn't want to work.
 b. He didn't go to the concert because she had too much work to do.
 c. Although he had a lot of work to do, he went to the concert.
 d. He never goes to a concert if he has work to do.</p> |
| <p>3 <i>Woman: Did Harvey know about the physics test when he skipped class the other day?</i>
 <i>Man: No, had he known about the test, he wouldn't have missed the class.</i>
 <i>Narrator: What does the man mean?</i></p> | <p>a. Harvey didn't go to class because he didn't know there was going to be a test.
 b. Harvey didn't want to take the test, so he skipped class.
 c. Harvey went to class although he didn't want to take the test.
 d. Harvey was happy that yesterday's test was postponed.</p> |

Exercises on conditional sentences: In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should be careful of untrue conditions.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 a. The woman did not need to call him.
 b. The woman called to let him know about the meeting.
 c. He's not glad to that the woman called.
 d. He already knew about the meeting when the woman called.</p> | <p>6 a. They knew they had to prepare for the exam.
 b. They didn't prepare for the exam.
 c. As soon as they knew about the exam, they began to prepare for it.
 d. They knew that the preparation for the exam would take a lot of time.</p> |
| <p>2 a. The man often drives too quickly.
 b. The police do not stop the man too much.
 c. The man drove rather slowly.
 d. The police should not stop the man so often.</p> | <p>7 a. It cost too much for him to go.
 b. He agrees to go with them.
 c. The is unworried about the cost of the restaurant.
 d. The restaurant is rather expensive.</p> |

- 3 a. She's so happy they don't have to work on Friday.
b. It would be nice if they could finish their work on Friday.
c. She wonders if the man would be nice enough to come in to work in her place on Friday.
d. It's too bad they must work on Friday.
- 4 a. She did not put enough postage on the letter.
b. The letter arrived last week.
c. The letter did not need more postage.
d. She did not put any postage on the letter.
- 5 a. He has a dog.
b. He doesn't pay attention to dogs.
c. He wishes he had a dog.
d. Dogs do not need much attention.
- 8 a. When Joe saw the car coming, he tried to get out of the way.
b. Joe was able to get out of the way because he saw the car coming.
c. Joe jumped out of the way of the oncoming car.
d. Because Joe didn't see the car coming, he couldn't get out of the way.
- 9 a. The woman didn't come.
b. The woman wanted to be there.
c. The woman was going to leave immediately.
d. The woman was not really there.
- 10 a. Kathy didn't work as hard as possible because she didn't know what the reward was.
b. Kathy couldn't have put more effort into the project to win the prize.
c. Kathy won first prize because of her hard work on the art project.
d. Kathy worked so hard that she knew first prize was hers.

b. Wishes

The verb "wish" tells something unreal. It delivers a different idea from of "hope". Just like "unreal" conditional sentences, we also use one step further in the past for the tenses when we express "wish". We use "simple past" tense to express wishes in the present time and "past perfect" in the past time.

For example:

Present wishes	<i>Mom wishes my brother weren't naughty.</i>	My brother is naughty.
	<i>We wish we had enough rice to cook.</i>	We don't have enough rice to cook.
Past wishes	<i>We wish the company had transferred our</i>	The company didn't transfer

	<i>bonus yesterday.</i>	our bonus yesterday.
	<i>Nanda wishes the plane hadn't landed late.</i>	The plane landed late.

Now listen to the wishes in these short dialogues. Underline the conditional markers and pick the best answers!

- 1 *Woman: The conference last weekend was really great!*
 Man: I heard that it was. I really wish I had been able to go.
 Narrator: What does the man mean?
 - a. He really enjoyed the conference.
 - b. He'll be able to go to the conference.
 - c. He couldn't attend the conference.
 - d. He heard everything at the conference.

- 2 *Woman: I heard the Professor Houston's economics class was really hard. Did you sign up for it?*
 Man: I really wish I hadn't. I heard that it was hard, too.
 Narrator: What does the man mean?
 - a. He didn't believe the course was hard.
 - b. He heard that the course was closed.
 - c. It was hard for him to get to the class.
 - d. He registered for the course.

- 3 *Woman: Oh, I see you have a new car.*
 Man: I wish I'd been able to buy the car I really wanted.
 Narrator: What does the man mean?
 - a. He got the car he really wanted.
 - b. He didn't get a new car.
 - c. The car that he got was not his first choice.
 - d. He didn't really want a new car.

Exercises on wish: In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and then choose the best answer to the question. You should remember that a wish implies an opposite meaning.

- 1 a. The line is short.
 b. There are not very many people in front of them.
 c. The line in front of them is too long.
 d. Not many people want to get tickets to the concert

- 6 a. Harry did not prepare enough for the exam.
 b. Harry studied hard for the exam.
 c. He has not heard anything about Harry.
 d. He had a bet with Harry.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>2 a. The woman told him about the ticket.
b. He wanted the woman to get a ticket.
c. He was happy to find out about the ticket.
d. The woman did not tell him about the ticket.</p> | <p>7 a. The algebra course that she is taking is not her favorite.
b. She doesn't need to take the algebra course.
c. She has a good schedule of courses for this semester.
d. She's good at math, but she's taking the algebra course anyway.</p> |
| <p>3 a. She is not working too many hours next week.
b. She doesn't have enough hours next week.
c. She is working too many hours next week.
d. She likes working so much.</p> | <p>8 a. He was able to find a cheap apartment.
b. His apartment is too expensive.
c. He doesn't like the apartment's location.
d. The apartment is cheap because of its location.</p> |
| <p>4 a. The department did not change the requirements.
b. She likes the new requirements.
c. She changed her apartment just before graduation.
d. She does not like the changes that the department made.</p> | <p>9 a. He arrived early at the auditorium.
b. He got one of the best seats in the auditorium.
c. He was not early enough to get a seat at the front.
d. He prefers sitting at the back.</p> |
| <p>5 a. He is going to the theater.
b. He doesn't have enough money
c. He isn't afraid to go.
d. He doesn't want to spend the money.</p> | <p>10 a. He'd like to work on his social skills at the game.
b. He wishes he could work on his term paper for sociology.
c. He can't attend the game because of his schoolwork.
d. Sociology is less important to him than football this weekend.</p> |

C. EXERCISES: Complete review on Contrary Meanings

Review exercises on Contrary meaning (*wishes & conditional sentences*): In this exercise, listen carefully to the short conversation and question in the recording program, and then choose the best answer to the question.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 a. She enjoys violent movies.
b. She would have preferred a more violent movie.</p> | <p>6 a. They filled up the gas tank at the service station.
b. Although they filled up the tank, they</p> |
|--|---|

- | | |
|--|---|
| c. She thinks the film was too violent. | still ran out of gas. |
| d. She enjoyed the movie. | c. Even though they didn't stop at the service station, they didn't run out of gas. |
| | d. They ran out of gas because they didn't stop at the gas station. |
| 2 a. He left the windows open. | 7 a. His schedule is not really heavy. |
| b. The rain did not get in. | b. He needs to add a few more courses. |
| c. He forgot to close the windows. | c. He enrolled in more courses than he really wants. |
| d. The rain got into the house. | d. He will register for a lot of courses next semester. |
| 3 a. Her family is unable to come to graduation. | 8 a. She never took the bus to work. |
| b. It is possible that her family will come. | b. She regularly takes the bus. |
| c. Her parents are coming to the ceremonies. | c. She doesn't know how to get to work. |
| d. She is not graduating this year. | d. She gets lost on the bus. |
| 4 a. He is going to miss the conference. | 9 a. She bought some eggs at the store. |
| b. He will take his vacation next week. | b. She doesn't have any eggs to lend him. |
| c. He will attend the conference. | c. He can borrow some eggs. |
| d. He won't miss the vacation. | d. She didn't go to the store. |
| 5 a. He enjoys chemistry lab. | 10 a. Teresa is feeling a lot better. |
| b. He doesn't have chemistry lab this afternoon. | b. The doctor didn't prescribe the medicine. |
| c. He isn't taking chemistry class. | c. Teresa didn't follow the doctor's orders. |
| d. He has to go to the lab. | d. Teresa did exactly what the doctor said. |

D. References:

Phillips, Deborah. 2001. *Longman Complete Course for the TOEFL Test (Preparation for the Computer and Paper Test)*. New York: Longman.

_____. 2003. *Longman Complete Course for the TOEFL Test (the Paper Test)*. New York: Longman.

Pyle, Michael A., Page Mary Ellen Munos. 1995. *TOEFL Preparation Guide (5th Ed)*. Foster City: IDG Books Worldwide.

Pyle, Michael A. 2001. *Cliff Test Prep – TOEFL CBT*. Foster City: IDG Books Worldwide.