

UNIT 9

Language focus

1 1st Conditional



Peter Marchant is the author of a book called *Future Visions* which predicts events over the next 50 years – both likely and less likely. Read the extract from his book and part of a TV interview. Use the verbs in brackets to complete the 1st Conditional sentences.

REPORTER Tell me Peter, why will we need this huge plane?

PETER Because passenger demand keeps going up, and the number of planes in the sky is already near the safety limit. If that number goes on rising, we will start to see more and more air disasters.¹ (go on / start) On the other hand, air traffic _____ to increase if we _____ more passengers in each plane.² (not need / put)

REPORTER So actually you're saying that the sky _____ a much more dangerous place if we _____ the Megajet.³ (become / not build)

PETER That's absolutely right.

REPORTER But if one of these monster planes _____ out of the sky, it _____ like three or four 'ordinary' air disasters!⁴ (fall / be)

PETER But remember that air transport is still very safe and air crashes are rare. If we _____ Megajets rather than smaller planes, crashes _____ rare.⁵ (use / remain)

The Megajet, or something very like it, will start to fly commercially by 2015. This V-shaped airliner will measure 90 metres across and will carry 1,000 passengers. The mainly windowless cabin will extend far into the wings.



Coming soon: the 'Megajet'

2 1st Conditional: active and passive forms

Write 1st Conditional sentences about the Megajet. Use the words in brackets, and choose between active and passive verb forms.

- 1 (the Megajet build / it probably cost about \$250m per plane)

If the Megajet is built, it will probably cost about \$250m per plane.

- 2 (airlines choose it / they want it for busy long-haul routes)

- 3 (however, it only produce / enough planes order)

- 4 (the designers be right / it actually use 20% less fuel than a 747)

- 5 (it go ahead / it carry twice as many passengers as the giant A380)

- 6 (however, it only succeed / airport terminals redesign for it)

3 1st Conditional: if and time clauses

Complete this extract from *Future Visions*. Choose the correct conjunctions.

Robots and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

*If*¹ (if / when) you believe what the movies tell us, we will have human-like robots very soon. The reality is different though. For example, scientists will need to do much more research _____² (when / before) we see an effective, all-purpose housework robot. Although AI researchers do a lot of work on experimental robots like Cye, these will remain in the laboratories _____³ (until / as soon as) they develop a lot further. Even _____⁴ (after / if) this happens, potential manufacturers will also need a period of commercial development. So such robots will probably not enter general use _____⁵ (after / until) some time in the 2020s.

_____⁶ (When / Until) they first go on sale, they will be very expensive. Then, of course, prices will come down _____⁷ (before / as soon as) sales build up and competitors start to appear.

_____⁸ (If / When) these robots appear, it is likely that they will have synthetic faces like MIT's* Kismet that will respond to human

expressions with their own. However, that does not mean that they will feel real emotion and, _____⁹ (as soon as / until) they do, they will not truly be like humans. But then, do we want them to be just like us? _____¹⁰ (Before / If) these super-machines learn to feel as well as think, perhaps they will start wanting to take over the world from us!

* MIT = Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Cye experimental robot

4 2nd Conditional

Complete this extract from *Future Visions* with the verbs in brackets. Use the 2nd Conditional.



Energy from the sun – plus moon

One possible solution to the world's energy problems is based on the idea of using solar energy that the moon receives. If we managed ¹ (manage) to collect and use just 1% of that energy, it would be ² (be) enough to supply many of our future needs. Some experts say that our energy needs in 2050 might grow to five times today's requirement. If that _____ ³ (become) reality, perhaps this solution _____ ⁴ (be) our only choice.

The basic idea is quite simple. If we _____ ⁵ (build) large numbers of solar panels on the moon, these _____ ⁶ (collect) solar energy, and they _____ ⁷ (turn) this into electricity. Then this _____ ⁸ (travel) to Earth in the form of a microwave beam, and large receivers _____ ⁹ (convert) the energy back into electricity. However, there is a major problem. What _____ ¹⁰ (happen) if the powerful beam _____ ¹¹ (miss) a receiver? Clearly, we _____ ¹² (need) to be extremely careful to avoid such a nightmare scenario.

5 1st and 2nd Conditionals

Read the sentences below. Decide if you think these things will happen or might happen. Then write 1st or 2nd Conditional statements – as appropriate – to say what you will or would do.

- 1 The price of petrol reaches two euros a litre.
☒ will happen _____ might happen
If that happens, I'll go to work by bus.
- 1 The price of petrol reaches two euros a litre.
 _____ will happen ☒ might happen
If that happened, I'd buy an electric car.
- 2 Your company decides to move a lot of jobs to China to reduce costs.
 _____ will happen _____ might happen
- 3 You win a competition with a surprise prize – a holiday for two at the newly-opened Hilton Hotel on the Moon.
 _____ will happen _____ might happen

- 4 Your company demands more hours of work per week for the same money. _____ will happen _____ might happen


- 5 Your government decides to raise the age of retirement to 70.
_____ will happen _____ might happen


- 6 Your government decides to end all state pensions by 2025.
_____ will happen _____ might happen

- 7 GM grass for your garden becomes available in bright blue, red, and pink.
_____ will happen _____ might happen

- 8 Your government decides to introduce a 'total' identity card for everyone (with complete medical, financial, and any criminal records).
_____ will happen _____ might happen

6 Practice drills: 1st and 2nd Conditionals

 **9.1, 9.2** Follow the instructions on the Student's CD/Cassette. If necessary, refer to the Listening scripts on p. 85.

 Pocket Book pp. 3–4

Pronunciation Stress in phrasal verbs

Read the pairs of sentences aloud and mark the final stress. Notice which of them are the adverb / preposition parts of phrasal verbs.

- 1 *Could you pick up the mail?* •
- 2 Could you pick it up?
- 3 Please put on the kettle.
- 4 You need to check this in.
- 5 Why not take off your coat?
- 6 Can you switch them on?
- 7 You have to take out your books.
- 8 We're going to put it away.

 **9.3** Listen and repeat the sentences.

1 Phrasal verbs: meanings from context

You can often work out the meaning of an idiomatic phrasal verb from its context. Underline the phrasal verbs in sentences 1–8. Match them with the meanings in a–h below.

- 1 After a long wait on the runway, we finally took off at 7.40. d
- 2 Alain spoke so fast that I couldn't take in everything he said. _____
- 3 Jan really takes after her mother. She's got the same eyes and nose. _____
- 4 Let me get a pen, and I'll take down your contact details. _____
- 5 Joe has just taken up basketball, and he's already very good at it. _____
- 6 It's agreed that Maria is going to take over the business when her father retires. _____
- 7 Ellen's very tired. She's taken on far too much work. _____
- 8 I need some cash for the weekend. I'm going to take out €100. _____

- a decide to do something, e.g. a job, that is difficult
- b take control of something, e.g. a country or an organization
- c get money by taking it from your bank account
- d leave the ground and begin to fly
- e look like an older member of your family
- f start to do or learn a new free-time activity
- g understand something that you hear or read
- h write something in order to keep the information



2 Phrasal verbs and dictionary skills

Complete the sentences with appropriate phrasal verbs from the dictionary extracts.

- 1 At 10 p.m., we finally went on to the final item on the agenda.
- 2 Before we can sign the contract, we must _____ the details.
- 3 The game _____ despite the forecast for heavy rain.
- 4 Anna isn't very happy about the plan, but I think she'll _____ it in the end.
- 5 Could you quickly _____ the post office and get some stamps?
- 6 Joe has _____ doing two full-time jobs for three whole years!
- 7 We have to reduce costs, so we also have to _____ this difficult programme of change.
- 8 The cost of borrowing was 5%, but now it _____ to 5.25%.

go ahead

- happen, be done

go over sth

- examine and check the details of sth carefully

go along with sb/sth

- agree with sb/sth; accept sth

go round (to ...)

- visit sb or a place that is near

go on (of a situation)

- continue without changing

go up

- become higher in price, level, etc; rise

go through with sth

- do what is necessary to complete an often hard or unpleasant course of action

go on to sth

- pass from one item to the next

Formal and informal emails

- 1 Read the email and find out who it is from, who it is to, and what it is about. Then decide whether it is formal or informal. Underline words and expressions that you think show this.

TO: p.marchant1@emax.com

FROM: deborah.mcfall@channel7.com

SUBJECT: Interview for Future World

Dear Mr Marchant

I am contacting you to invite you to appear on Channel 7's *Future World* in the near future. We would very much like to arrange an interview with you concerning your new publication, *Future Visions*. This would be broadcast on Wednesday, 17 April.

The interview would take place at our studios in Paddington, and we are able to offer the following dates and times:

Friday, 12 April: 10.00–12.00 or 15.00–17.00
Monday, 15 April: 11.00–13.00 or 14.00–16.00

If you would like to proceed with this interview, please could you respond as soon as possible, and in any case not later than Friday, 5 April, with your preferred date and time.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely
Deborah McFall
Assistant Producer

- 2 Complete the table with formal equivalents from Deborah's email.

	Formal	Informal
Opening	<u>Dear (Mr Marchant)</u>	Hi (Peter)!
Close		Bye
Other expressions		can you
		get back (to sb)
		go ahead with
		Hope to hear from you.
		Just a quick note to
Vocabulary		want to set up
		would go out on
		about
Full form and abbreviation		book
		asap

