Conditions

First conditional

1 **We use conditional sentences when discussing the terms of an agreement, making hypothetical proposals, bargaining and making concessions.**

*If you order now, we will give you a discount.*

*We will reduce the price by 10% if you give us a firm order in advance.*

The use of **if + present simple, will + infinitive** of the verb suggests that the acceptance of the condition is the basis for a deal.

2 **We use unless in conditional sentences to mean if not.**

*We won't be able to start construction unless you train our personnel*.

3 **As long as and provided that are also used to state conditions.**

*We will sign the contract as long as you guarantee prices for the next 18 months.*

*We can reach agreement on a joint venture provided that our firm has a representative on your board.*

Second conditional: **if + past simple, would + infinitive**

**If the proposal is more tentative and possibly less certain, we use past verb forms.**

*If we said we were prepared to deliver in March, would you make a firm order?*

*If you gave us a 5% we’d make a firm order of 5,000 units.*