Adverbial clauses: Conditionals

Advanced Grammar in Use
(Hewings Units 83-86)

Contents: Grammar lessons

Revision of tenses

Revision of verb complementation

Reporting verbs (revision). Reporting nouns and adjectives

Articles, determiners and quantifiers. Possessive structures.

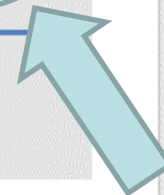Nouns: agreement; structures after nouns.

Revision of Prepositions

Phrasal and Prepositional verbs

Organising Information: The Passive (Revision), Extraposition (Revision), Inversion and Cleft-sentences,

Adverbial clauses: Time, Reason, Purpose, Result and Condition

Connecting ideas in a sentence (conjunctions) and between sentences (discourse markers).

- **Zero conditional**
  - **IF *or* WHEN + present tense, present tense**
    - *If I stay up late, I feel awful the next day*
    - Not a true conditional: events described both happen
- **First conditional**
  - **IF + present tense, future tense WILL**
    - *If I pass the exam, I'll have a big party*
    - Used to talk about likely events in the future
- **Second conditional**
  - **IF +past tense, WOULD / COULD / MIGHT**
    - *If I won the lottery, I would give all the money to my mum*
    - Used to talk about unlikely situations
- **Third conditional**
  - **IF + past perfect, WOULD / COULD / MIGHT + HAVE + past participle**
    - *If you had told me the truth, I wouldn't have asked the teacher*
    - Used to speculate about the past

Unit 83 D. Unreal conditionals: advanced points

- **If … were + to + infinitive→** it is unlikely that the situation in the if-clause will happen
  - If the technology **were to become available**, we would like to expand the business.
- Not with some **state** verbs!
  belong, doubt, enjoy, know, like, remember, understand
  - If **I knew** they were honest, **I**'d lend them the money.
- Also for making polite suggestions:
  - Would it be too early for you if we were to meet at 5.30?

83.3 Choose from these verbs to complete the sentences, using each verb once only. If possible, use the pattern **were + to-infinitive**. If this is not possible, use the past simple form of the verb. (D)

belong   **close**   **doubt**   **hold**   **switch**   **understand**

1 If they .... an election now, the Democrats would undoubtedly win.
2 If I .... his honesty, I wouldn't employ him.
3 If all cars .... to liquefied petroleum gas, air pollution levels would fall dramatically.
4 I'd sell the house immediately if it .... to me.
5 If I .... Chinese, I'd do the translation myself.
6 There would be no cinema in the town if the Odeon ....

Exercises

83.3 Choose from these verbs to complete the sentences, using each verb once only. If possible, use the pattern **were + to-infinitive**. If this is not possible, use the past simple form of the verb. (D)

> belong   close   doubt   hold   switch   understand

1 If they _____ *were to hold* an election now, the Democrats would undoubtedly win.

2 If I _____ *doubted* his honesty, I wouldn't employ him.

3 If all cars _____ *were to switch* to liquefied petroleum gas, air pollution levels would fall dramatically.

4 I'd sell the house immediately if it _____ *belonged* to me.

5 If I _____ *understood* Chinese, I'd do the translation myself.

6 There would be no cinema in the town if the Odeon _____ *were to close*.

SECOND TYPE

- **If it was/were (*formal*) not for Vivian,** the conference wouldn't be going ahead.

THIRD TYPE

- **If it had not been for Vivian,** the conference wouldn't have been a success.

Inversion (more formal):

    – Were it not for Vivian…/Had it not been for Vivian

- **But for + noun (formal):**

    – The village school would have closed years ago **but for the determination** of teachers and parents.

83.4 Write new sentences with similar meanings. Begin with the word(s) given. (E)

1 It's only because he's a professor that anybody pays any attention to him. *If it wasn't*
   for the fact that he is a professor, nobody would pay any attention to him.

2 His happiness would have been complete except for his anxiety over Bridget. *If it were...*

3 The weather was terrible. Otherwise, we would have gone walking this weekend. *If it had...*

4 The strike would probably still be going on if the government hadn't intervened. *Were it...*

5 The fight could have got out of hand if the police hadn't arrived. *Had it...*

6 Everything was quiet except for the sound of birds singing. *But for...*

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2. If it were not for his anxiety over Bridget, his happiness would have been complete.

3. If it had not been for the terrible weather, we would have gone walking this weekend.

4. Were it not for the intervention of the government / (the) government intervention…

5. Had it not been for the arrival of the police / the police arriving, the fight could have got out of hand.

6. But for the sound of birds singing, everything was quiet.

Unit 84B& C. Inversion & *If you happen*..

- Conditionals with ***should/were*** or ***had→ inversion*** (**formal/literary** English & for **hypothetical** situations!!):
  - **Should** any of this cost you anything, send me the bill.
  - It would be embarrassing, **were** she to find out the truth
  - **Had** they not rushed to hospital, he would have died.

- **If you happen/If you should happen to/ If you should**…→ ONLY IN REAL CONDITIONALS to say that the situation is possible but not likely; NOT In unreal conditionals for states/events that are highly unlikely or impossible
  - If you happen to be in our area, drop in and see us (*or* If you should happen to be *or* If you should be)
  - BUT:
  - If the North Sea froze in winter, you could walk from London to Oslo.

84.3 If possible, rewrite the underlined parts of these sentences with **happen to**. If it is unlikely, write ✗ after the sentence. (D)

1 <u>If I see Karen when I'm in Rome</u>, I'll send her your regards.
2 <u>If a UFO landed in the centre of London</u>, there would be mass panic.
3 The plan for a new airport to be built outside London is bad news <u>if you live nearby</u>.
4 <u>If I was the President of the United States</u>, I would order its nuclear weapons to be destroyed.
5 <u>If you are in the south of Spain next week</u>, there is a good chance of seeing a total eclipse of the sun.

84.3 If possible, rewrite the underlined parts of these sentences with **happen to**. If it is unlikely, write *X* after the sentence. (D)

1 <u>If I see Karen when I'm in Rome</u>, I'll send her your regards.
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1. If I happen to see Karen..,

2. X

3. … if you happen to live nearby

4. X

5. If you happen to be in the south of Spain next week

Unit 85 A&B: when to use *were*
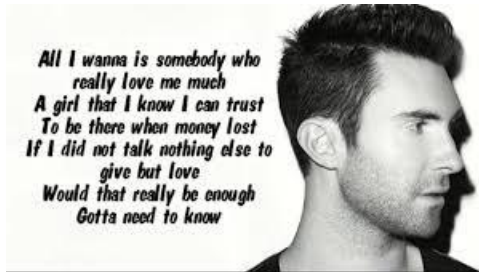
- WERE instead of WAS is possible in **unreal if-clauses**→ past subjunctive (formal! UNREAL past!):
  - If you mother **were** here, she wouldn't allow you to eat chocolates.
- WERE instead of WAS is preferred when giving advice:
  - If I **were** you, I'd take the first plane back home.
- OTHER imaginary situations:
  - **Were** the election **to be** held today, he would win (= If the election was/were held today…)
  - **I WISH you were/was** closer to me.
  - I'd like to do accounting. **IF ONLY I weren't/wasn't** so poor at maths. (expressing REGRET)
  - I **WOULD RATHER/SOONER** the meeting were/was earlier.
  - **SUPPOSE/IMAGINE** the house **were/was** repainted…
  - I remember her **AS IF** it were yesterday.
  - She acts **as THOUGH** she were the owner of the business.
  - I wouldn't buy the house, **EVEN IF IT** were posible to find the money for it.

Friends
Second conditionals

Conditionals in songs

All I wanna is somebody who
really love me much
A girl that I know I can trust
To be there when money lost
If I did not talk nothing else to
give but love
Would that really be enough
Gotta need to know

- Jason Mraz - I Won't Give Up (Official Lyric Video)
- Locked Away - R. City ft. Adam Levine
- If it had't been for love – Adele

HOMEWORK: SEND YOUR SONGS WITH CONDITIONALS TO THE GRAMMAR FORUM

If...not and unless; if and whether; etc.

C

We can use **if or whether** to say that two possibilities have been talked or thought about, or to say that people are not sure about something:

☐ They couldn't decide **if/whether** it was worth re-sitting the exam.
☐ Do you know **if/whether** Ben's at home?

Whether can usually be followed immediately by **or not**. Compare:

☐ I didn't know **if** Tom was coming **or not**. (*not* ...if or not Tom was coming.) *and*
☐ I didn't know **whether or not** Tom was coming. (*or* ...**whether** Tom was coming **or not**...)

D

We use **whether** rather than **if** –

☆ after a **preposition** (although **if** is sometimes used informally) and before a **to-infinitive**:

☐ We argued *about* **whether** butter or margarine was better for you. (*informally* ...if...)

☐ I couldn't decide **whether** *to buy* apples or bananas.

☆ in the pattern noun/adjective + as to whether to mean 'about' or 'concerning':

☐ There was some *disagreement* **as to whether** he was eligible to play for France.

Other nouns and adjectives used in this pattern include **conflict, confusion, debate, discussion, doubt, question, speculation, uncertainty; concerned, indifferent, uncertain, undecided, unsure.**

and we prefer **whether** rather than **if** –

☆ after the verbs **advise, choose, consider, depend on, discuss, talk about,** and **think about**:

☐ You should *consider* **whether** the car you are interested in is good value.

☆ in a clause acting as a subject or complement:

☐ **Whether the minister will quit over the issue** remains to be seen.

☐ **The first issue is whether he knew he was committing a crime.**