**Conditionals**

A conditional consists of two parts, the **dependent clause** and the **independent clause**.

Depending on the tenses, a conditional sentence could indicate the following:

1. a real possibility
2. theoretical only
3. a past possibility with a past result
4. a past possibility with a present result (mixed)
5. a natural law

The following chart shows the correct tenses and their meanings in the conditional **regardless of the order of the clauses**.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Condition (if)** | **Result (then)** | **Example** | **Meaning** |
| I | Present simple | Future simple | If you believe, you will succeed. | You still have time. |
| II | Past simple | Would V1 | If you believed, you would succeed | You don’t believe but |
| III | Past perfect (had V3) | Would have V3 | If you had believed, you would have succeeded | You didn’t believe – past result |
| Mixed | Past perfect (had V3) | Would V1 | If you had believed, you would be the top student in the class. | You didn’t believe – Current result |
| Law | Present simple | Present simple | If you believe, everything is possible | The rule |

Note: In condition II – the verb “to be” in the conditional clause is always *were*: If I were a werewolf, I would love a full moon.

Variations:

Unless = if not*: If you don’t pay attention* is the same as *Unless you pay attention*.

In formal writing, reversing the order of subject/verb in the condition is like saying *if*: *If I had known* = *Had I known*

**I. Recognition: Answer the following questions based on the sentence preceding it.**

1. If he had seen the car, he would have stopped in time.

Did he avoid the accident?

1. If she knew how to make *kube*, she would prepare it.

Will she prepare her mother-in-law’s favorite dish?

1. They would be heroes if they had won the tournament.

Is the entire country celebrating or crying?

1. My dogs bark if they hear noise.

Do I feel safe at home?

1. If they had missed the flight, they would not have been killed.

Are they alive?

1. If she finds the missing button, she will sew it onto the shirt.

Has she searched the room?

1. He would feel better if he accepted the result.

Is he at peace now?

1. If I had not double-checked the list, I would have forgotten my passport.

Did he fly to the United States?

1. My business will improve if the exchange rate improves.

Have I gone bankrupt?

1. If I were you, I would keep my mouth shut.

Is it too late to give you advice?

1. If anything approaches, the lights turn on.

Is this part of an instruction for motion-detectors?

1. Unless he changes their ways, he will end up in jail.

Is he in prison?

1. Had the rabbit not stopped, it would have escaped.

Is the rabbit alive?

1. Everything would have turned out different if the train had been on time.

Did the train arrive on time?

1. If he thought before he spoke, people would take him more seriously.

Is he at a party now?

II. **Application – Fill in the suggested verb in the correct tense.**

Kibbutz Hor Be’Emeq has been losing money because of its agriculture production. It was debating whether to continue growing crops or to pave the area and build a shopping mall. A representative from a major agriculture company came to Budget Committee and proposed that the kibbutz buy genetically modified seeds that produce a much sweeter watermelon. This is what the representative says:

1. **Real Choice**

If you (buy) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the seeds, you (grow) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ much sweeter watermelon.

If you (take) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my advice, you (produce) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a much better product.

If you (have) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ even average rain, you (harvest) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a big crop.

If you (sell) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ this crop, the Kibbutz (make) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a large profit.

If you (trust) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my experience, you (not regret) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.

1. **Theoretical**

Of course, the watermelon decision became the prime topic of conversation at the Kibbutz. Everybody had an opinion about matter (no surprise there), even people that were not members of the Budget Committee This is what was overheard in the kibbutz grocery store:

If I (have) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a vote, I (buy) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ those seeds.

If the representative (give) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the name of one kibbutz that has successfully planted, I (believe) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_him.

We (make) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more money if we (build) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a mall.

If I (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the committee, I (not trust) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him at all.

I (agree) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ only if (know) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about the safety of those watermelons.

1. **Regrets – Past results**

The Committee decided to buy the seeds and plant the special watermelons. Unfortunately, that year, it rained a total of 10 days all winter long. Of course, the watermelon seeds were not developing properly. Faced with a serious crisis, the Kibbutz took a loan from the bank and paved over the whole watermelon field as a preparation to build a mall. Of course, this failure led to mass criticism of the Committee.

If those idiots (not decide) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to buy those seeds, we (not need) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to get a loan.

If those geniuses (ask) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me first, we (not fall) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in this mess.

If I (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the committee, I (know) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not to buy those stupid seeds.

If any of those financial experts (work) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in agriculture, they (understand) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what a risk they were taking.

If we (use) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ regular watermelons, we (not lose) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ money.

1. **Past Condition – Present Result**

Things went from bad to worse. The additional loan needed to construct the mall was rejected. Even worse, the neighboring kibbutz, Odhor Be’Emeq, planted the genetically modified watermelon the next year and made a huge profit. So, our kibbutz, without either watermelons or a mall, was deep in debt and had to severely cut its budget. You should hear the members complain now:

If we (not overreact)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ making money on those watermelons!

If those committee members (have) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an ounce of brains, my daughter (be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ able to study in the university this year.

If we (build) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the mall from the beginning, the Kibbutz (not have) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ any debts.

If I (leave) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Kibbutz then, I (own) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ my own house in the city by now.

If we (not get) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into such a deep debt, our children (want) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to say here.

1. **Rules**

The moral of the story is:

If you (take) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a risk, you (must) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ask questions.

If you (depend) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on farming, a little prayer (not hurt) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

If you (live) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on a kibbutz, you (share) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the rewards and the risks.