

THE CONDITIONAL CLAUSE

STUDY THESE SENTENCES:

I IF YOU GO THERE TONIGHT, YOU WILL MEET TOM.

II IF YOU WENT THERE TONIGHT, YOU WOULD MEET TOM.

III IF YOU HAD GONE THERE YESTERDAY, YOU WOULD HAVE MET TOM.

TRY TO TRANSLATE THE SENTENCES INTO YOUR OWN LANGUAGE. THEY REPRESENT DIFFERENT KINDS OF CONDITIONS.

I POSSIBLE CONDITION – THE CONDITION IS QUITE REAL AND POSSIBLE AND IS QUITE LIKELY TO COME TRUE.

II LESS LIKELY BUT POSSIBLE CONDITION – THE CONDITION IS MORE UNLIKELY TO MATERIALISE BUT STILL MIGHT POSSIBLY HAPPEN.

III IMPOSSIBLE CONDITION – THIS CONDITION IS NO LONGER A REALISTIC OPTION – THE TIME FOR IT HAS PASSED BY AND IT CAN NOT MATERIALISE.

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NOTE!!!

THE ABOVE SENTENCES ARE A COMBINATION OF:

- A MAIN CLAUSE : YOU WILL MEET TOM
- A CONDITIONAL SUB CLAUSE: IF YOU GO THERE TONIGHT
- THE MAIN CLAUSE CONTAINS AN AUXILIARY VERB: WILL OR WOULD + MAIN VERB.
- THE CONDITIONAL CLAUSE CONTAINS A SIMPLE TENSE FORM OF THE VERB: GO.

