

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.

