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Chapter Thirteen

Conditionals

Conditionals are the structure that describes the result of something that might happen (in the present or future) or might have happened but didn't (in the past). Means if a certain things or situation had happened, the certain result would have occurred. Hence we call them 'if clauses' also. They are made using different English verb tenses. There are four kinds:

The Zero Conditional

This conditional is used when the result will always happen.

e.g.- If water reaches 100 degrees, it always boils and if you cool it at zero degree, it turns a into solid form(ice). It's a fact. Thus this conditional is used for facts. Here "if" can be replaced by "when" also without any change in meaning. Means you can write- When the water reaches 100 degrees, it always boils.

- If people **eat** too much, they **get** fat.
- If you **touch** a fire, you **get** burned.
- People **die** if they **don't eat**.
- You **get** water if you **mix** hydrogen and oxygen.
- Snakes **bite** if they **are** scared.

The First Conditional

It's used to talk about things which might happen in the future. Of course, we can't know what will happen in the future, but this describes possible things, which could easily come true. It uses the present tense to discuss possibilities of the future.

- If it **rains**, I **will not go** to the school.
- If I **have** enough money, I**'ll buy** some new shoes.
- She will **be** late if the train **is** delayed.
- She will **miss** the bus if she **doesn't leave** soon.

The Second Conditional

The second conditional uses the **simple past tense.**

(We can use '**were**' or '**was**' with 'I' and 'he/she/it') It has two uses.

<u>First, we can use it to talk about things in the future that are probably not going to be true and like any dream</u>. For example.

- If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a big house.
  (I probably won't win the lottery)

- If I had enough money I would buy a house with twenty bedrooms

- If I had enough money, I would travel around the world.

Second conditional, we can use it to talk about something in the present which is impossible, because it's not true. Look at the examples.

- If I **had** his number, I **would call** him.
  (I don't have his number now, so it's impossible for me to call him).
- If I **were** you, I **wouldn't go** out with that man.

The second conditional is different from the first conditional because this is a lot more unlikely

The Third Conditional

It talks about the past (unlike the first & second conditionals which are used for things of the future). It's used to describe a situation that didn't happen, and to imagine the result of this situation.

- If she **had studied sincerely**, she **would have passed** the examination (but, really we know she didn't study and so she didn't pass)

- If I **hadn't eaten** so much, I **wouldn't have stomach problem**
  (But I did eat a lot, and so I did feel sick).

- If we **had taken** a taxi, we **wouldn't have missed** the plane.

- He **would have been** on time for the interview, if he **had left** the house at nine (note that we can put 'if' at the beginning, or in the middle. It doesn't make any difference)

- If the train hadn't been late, we would have arrived on time.

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