**Special Cases– Reading Material**

**Overview:**

If only I had known the answers to the test, I would have scored full marks. Now, that is an impossible condition to fulfill.

Oh, If only things were easier or If only I were a billionaire......The one word that expresses a condition, a wish, a possibility, a stipulation....

IF - Trust me, If you follow all these materials and exercises, it will get you the results you need.

**Objectives:**

This reading material is designed to help you:

* Understand and learn conditional sentences, its types and usage.
* Apply them situationally.

**If Conditionals**

**Zero Conditional**

If something is 100% true, you use the zero conditional. Something scientific, tested and proven

Example:

If ice melts, it becomes water.

Form : If+ subject + base verb, sub+ base verb

**First Conditional**

Things that are probable, most of the time, it is true.

We use the first conditional when talking about possible future events. Example:

If I go the movies, I will (may/might/could) eat popcorn

If I find her address, I will send her an invitation.

Form: If+ sub+ base verb, sub+ modal verbs + base verb

**{If + Simple Present + will or Will + if + Simple Present}**

If it rains, then we will stay at home

You will always be able to take another test if you fail.

**Note:** Shall, can and may can be used instead of will.

**Second Conditional**

It is possible but very unlikely the condition will be fulfilled

We use the *second conditional* when talking about future events that are not likely to happen.

Example:

If I had more time, I would travel more

If I found her address, I would send her an invitation. Form: If + Sub+ Simple Past, Sub+ modal +base verb

**{If + Simple Past+ would+ base form or would + base form+ if + Simple Past}**

I would be surprised if I saw pigs in the sky

If I won a million dollars , I would travel around the world.

We also use the *second conditional* when talking about things which are contrary to the present facts.

Example:

If she worked less, she wouldn't be so tired.

(In reality she doesn't work less, so she is tired.)

You would see John if you were here now.

(In reality you are not here now, so you don't see John.)

**Note:** You can use should, could, might instead of **would**:

**The verb BE**

The verb BE has a special rule in this case.

Usually we say: I was, he was, she was, it was, we were, you were, they were. However, in these cases, we use:

I were, he were, she were, it were, we were, you were, they were. In other words: "were" is the only form.

Examples:

If I were you I would apologize. (In reality I am not you.)

I would fight back, if I were you. (In reality I am not you.)

**Third Conditional**

It is impossible that the condition will be fulfilled because it refers to the past.

We use the *third conditional* when talking about things which are contrary to the past facts. In other words: events that did not happen in the past.

Example:

If I had known you were coming, I would have waited for you

If I had found her address, I would have sent her an invitation. Form: If + Sub+ Past Perfect , sub+ would + have + Past Participle

**{If + Past Perfect + would have + V3 or would have + V3 + If + Past Perfect }**

If I had woken up on time, I would have taken the bus.

(What really happened was that I didn't wake up on time, and so I didn't take the bus.)

If I had told Sarah the truth, I would have felt much better.

(What really happened was that I didn't tell Sarah the truth, and so I didn't feel so good.)

**Note #1:**

The short form of *had* is *'d*.

Example:

If he**'d** passed his exams, he would have gotten a diploma.

**Note #2:**

You can use should have, could have, might have instead of **would have**:

Examples:

Jessica might have gotten the job if she hadn't been so nervous. You could have arrived on time if you had used a map.

If she had known what to do, she should have told us. Lets understand Conditionals a little more.

**Present Conditionals**

**Present Real Conditional**

**FORM**

[If / When ... Simple Present ..., ... Simple Present ...] [... Simple Present ... if / when ... Simple Present ...] **USE**

The Present Real Conditional is used to talk about what you normally do in real-life situations.

Examples:

 If I **go** to a friend's house for dinner, I usually **take** a bottle of wine or some flowers.

 When I **have** a day off from work, I often **go** to the beach.

 If the weather **is** nice, she **walks** to work.

 Jerry **helps** me with my homework when he **has** time.

 I **read** if there **is** nothing on TV.

 A: What **do you do** when it **rains**?

B: I **stay** at home.

 A: Where **do you stay** if you **go** to Sydney?

B: I **stay** with my friends near the harbor.

**IMPORTANT If / When**

Both "if" and "when" are used in the Present Real Conditional. Using "if" suggests that something happens less frequently. Using "when" suggests that something happens regularly.

Examples:

 **When** I have a day off from work, I usually go to the beach.

*I REGULARLY HAVE DAYS OFF FROM WORK.*

 **If** I have a day off from work, I usually go to the beach.

*I RARELY HAVE DAYS OFF FROM WORK.*

**Present Unreal Conditional**

**FORM**

[If ... Simple Past ..., ... would + verb ...] [... would + verb ... if ... Simple Past ...]

**USE**

The Present Unreal Conditional is used to talk about what you would generally do in imaginary situations.

Examples:

 If I **owned** a car, I **would drive** to work. But I don't own a car.

 She **would travel** around the world if she **had** more [MONEY](http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/presentconditional.html). But she doesn't have much [MONEY](http://www.englishpage.com/conditional/presentconditional.html).

 I **would read** more if I **didn't watch** so much TV.

 Mary **would move** to Japan if she **spoke** Japanese.

 If they **worked** harder, they **would earn** more money.

 A: What **would** you **do** if you **won** the lottery?

B: I **would buy** a house.

 A: Where **would** you **live** if you **moved** to the U.S.?

B: I **would live** in Seattle.

**EXCEPTION If I were ...**

In the Present Unreal Conditional, the form "was" is not considered grammatically correct. In written English or in testing situations, you should always use "were." However, in everyday conversation, "was" is often used.

Examples:

 If he **were** French, he would live in Paris.

 If she **were** rich, she would buy a yacht.

 I would play basketball if I **were** taller.

 I would buy that computer if it **were** cheaper.

 I would buy that computer if it **was** cheaper. ***Not Correct*** *(BUT OFTEN SAID IN CONVERSATION.)*

**IMPORTANT Only use "If"**

Only the word "if" is used with the Present Unreal Conditional because you are discussing imaginary situations. "When" cannot be used.

Examples:

 I would buy that computer **when** it were cheaper. ***Not Correct***

 I would buy that computer **if** it were cheaper. ***Correct***

**EXCEPTION Conditional with Modal Verbs**

There are some special conditional forms for modal verbs in English:

**would + can = could would + shall = should would + may = might**

The words "can," "shall" and "may" cannot be used with "would." Instead, they must be used in these special forms.

Examples:

 If I went to Egypt, I **would can** learn Arabic. ***Not Correct***

 If I went to Egypt, I **could** learn Arabic. ***Correct***

 If she had time, she **would may** go to the party. ***Not Correct***

 If she had time, she **might** go to the party. ***Correct***

The words "could," should," "might" and "ought to" include conditional, so you cannot combine them with "would."

Examples:

• If Ihad more time, I would could exercise after work. *Not Correct*

• If Ihad more time, I could exercise after work. *Correct*

• If he invited you,you really would should go. *Not Correct*

• If he invited you,you really should go. *Correct*