

- (11) The nomination gave the director new respect.  
Teachers have interesting jobs.
- (12) The students are responsive  
Students are interested in studies.
- (13) The teachers are incompetent.  
The band visited India.
- (14) It won the Grammy Award.  
An intelligent listener must be a person.
- (15) The person is able to understand a joke.  
The pick-up is extraordinary.
- (16) The suspension is defective.  
It was introduced in 1853.
- (17) It was the first railway in India.  
Smith is pleasant company.
- (18) He begins to talk about his African experience.  
Water filters are used.
- (19) The users want to prevent Jaundice.  
The company prints a comparative statement.
- (20) Some buyers want more information.  
Perry is 85 years old.
- (21) You cannot order him about.  
Partners in a doubles match play well together.
- (22) They have a good understanding.  
His style is unique.
- (23) He sometimes lifts the tunes of foreign composers.  
The car was badly damaged.
- (24) He was not hurt.  
She jumped.
- She had stepped on live coals.

## CHAPTER : 7 CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

A Conditional Sentence is one in which a condition is expressed in the **conditional** or **subordinate** clause. Three important ideas can be expressed in English with 'IF'—

1. He will help you, **if** you ask him.

The idea is : something will happen if a certain condition is fulfilled.

2. He would help you **if** you asked him.

The idea is : the action denoted by the **if clause** is not taking place at the moment, it is hypothetical, but we can imagine the 'possible' result. This sentence and such sentences denote the possible result of an imagined condition.

All 'unreal' conditions can be included here: for example :

If I were a polar bear, I would live in the Arctic.

If I were a penguin, I would live in the Antarctic.

3. He would have helped you, **if** you had asked him.

The idea is : He did not help you. Why did he not help you ? Because you did not ask him.

Here **if** expresses an impossible idea, the idea that the condition was not fulfilled, but we would like to imagine the result if it had been fulfilled.

There are two clauses in a conditional sentence : the **conditional clause** and the **main clause**. The conditional clause contains the condition implied by the use of **if, until, unless, provided**, etc, and the main clause contains the possible result if the condition is fulfilled. There are three main types of conditional sentences. The difference between them arises from the tenses used in the two clauses.

**TYPE : I**

(likely or probable)

**Main Clause**  
**Future**

eg. You will be very tired,  
You will save petrol,  
Peter will resign from the post,

**Conditional Clause**  
**Present Simple**

if you come back the same day.  
if you get the carburettor cleaned.  
if he gets a scholarship to study abroad.

**TYPE : II**

(unlikely but possible)

**Main Clause**  
**Would**

eg. You would be very tired,  
You would save petrol,  
Peter would resign from the post,

**Conditional Clause**  
**Past Simple**

if you came back the same day:  
if you got the carburettor cleaned.  
if he got a scholarship to study abroad.

**TYPE : III**

(impossible)

**Main Clause****Would have + Past Participle**

eg. You would have been very tired,  
You would have saved petrol,  
Peter would have resigned from the post,

**Conditional Clause****Past Perfect**

if you had come back the same day.  
if you had got the carburettor cleaned.  
if he had got a scholarship to study abroad.

Look at the sentences given below :

1. If you practise hard, you will win.
2. If you practised hard, you would win.
3. If you had practised hard, you would have won.

The first is an example of **Type I**. The speaker implies that you can practise hard. This is an **open and probable** condition.

**Conditional Sentences**

The second is an example of **Type II**. Here the speaker is not very sure that the condition can or will be fulfilled. This is a **possible but improbable** condition.

The third is an example of **Type III**. It means that you **did not** practise hard and you did not win. This is an **impossible** condition.

The most common beginning of the conditional sentence is **If**—but **unless, provided, in case** etc. can also be used. eg. :

If you get good grades, I will take you out to dinner.

**Provided** you get good grades, I will take you out to dinner.

**In case** you get good grades, I will take you out to dinner.

**Unless** you get good grades, I will not take you out to dinner.

'**Unless**' is very close in meaning to '**if not**' but it cannot universally replace it.

We have listed the three main types of Conditional Sentences; there may, however, be slight variations in each type which change the undertone of the sentence.

**VARIATIONS OF TYPE I :****(a) OR ELSE :**

The sentence : If you do not hurry up, we will be late., can also be written like this :

Hurry up, **or else** we will be late.

Similarly :

If you are not careful, you will break the glass.

Or

Be careful, **or else** you will break the glass.

**(b) AND :**

The sentence : If you make any more mistakes, I will fire you.

can also be written as :

Make more mistakes **and** I will fire you.

Similarly :

If you take one step further, you will be a dead man.

Or



Take one step further and you will be a dead man.

**(c) CAUSE AND EFFECT :**

If you heat butter it (melt).

Ordinarily the sentence would read :

If you heat butter it **will melt**.

but in this case we can say :

If you heat butter it **melts**.

Here, if the condition is fulfilled, there is no chance that the result will not ensue. These sentences express a cause and effect relationship. In such sentences present simple tense is used in both the clauses :

If you throw a stone into water, it sinks.

**(d) IMPERATIVE :**

If you want it, go and get it.

If the water is too cold, put on the geyser.

If he likes South Indian food, take him to Meru Palace.

Here the main clause is an imperative and therefore in the present simple tense.

**(e)** Instead of **will/shall** other modal auxiliaries can be used. eg.

If they print this news, he **will** sue them.

If they print this news he **may** sue them.

If they print this news he **can** sue them.

**VARIATIONS IN TYPE II :**

(a) If the condition cannot be fulfilled, i.e., it is a fantastic condition and can never be fulfilled in the present or future; **'were'** is used in the 'if clause' :

If I **were** you, I would resign.

If I **were** a spider, I would spin a web.

If he **were** an orange, he would be round and juicy.

(b) **could, might and should** may be used in place of **would** eg. :

If a child did not understand words, he or she **would** not understand sentences.

**Conditional Sentences**

If a child did not understand words he **could** not understand sentences.

If a child did not understand words he **might** not understand sentences.

**VARIATIONS IN TYPE III.**

(a) The sentence :

If there had been a strike, the shops would have been closed.

can be written as :

Had there been a strike, the shops would have been closed.

(b) The modals **could, might** and **should** may be used in place of 'would' eg. :

If you had trained the dog, he **would** have fetched the paper.

If you had trained the dog, he **could** have fetched the paper.

If you had trained the dog, he **should** have fetched the paper.

If you had trained the dog, he **might** have fetched the paper.

**Some solved examples :**

- (1) If he had argued with the policeman,.....the policeman would have arrested him.
- (2) If Perry finishes his work in time,.....we will take him out to dinner.
- (3) If you hear him talk on world war II,.....you will realise the depth of his study.
- (4) If you had cooked rice,.....we could have eaten it with sambhar.
- (5) I would print 500 more copies.....if the first 1000 were sold.
- (6) If the plane landed on water,.....the air-cushions would blow up.
- (7) If you make phone calls from your room,.....the charge will be added to your bill.

- (8) If Jerry met Tom again,.....they would make up their quarrel.
- (9) If the blackmailer calls again,.....we will record his voice.
- (10) If Della had been more diplomatic,.....the issue would have been resolved.
- (11) The picnic will be much more fun.....if we take our cricket kit with us.
- (12) The Annual function would be postponed.....if the dates of practical examinations were declared.
- (13) You would have been suspended if.....you had taken your cell phone to the class-room.
- (14) The IITs would increase their intake.....if the government ordered them.
- (15) If Sania reaches the third round of U.S. open.....her ranking would be raised to 35.

**Exercises :****Conditional Sentences : Type I :****Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.**

1. You will have to guard the gate until your reliever (come.)
2. If you do not reach in time, you (miss) the first song.
3. If we start at a speed of 7 miles/sec, we (reach) the moon in two days.
4. If you have a problem, worrying only (add) to it.
5. We (not go) out, if it rains.
6. If you treat her kindly, she (do) anything for you.
7. I shall not call the Chief unless there (be) an emergency.
8. I shall call the Chief only if there (be) an emergency.
9. There (be) no buses tomorrow unless the court order is revoked.
10. Provided the neighbours do not object, we (hold) the party here.
11. If you want, we (go) and live in the South of France.
12. However hard you try, you never (convince) me.

**Conditional Sentences**

13. His wife will suffer terribly, if he (be) found guilty.
14. If he shows any signs of weakness, they (drop) him.
15. If you violate any of those conditions, your admission (be) cancelled.
16. ✓ If you buy a car before the budget, you (save) upto Rs. 35,000.
17. If the CGPA (be) equal to or more than 7.50, the student can apply for branch change.
18. If the cough gets worse, I (give) him a mild sedative.
19. Asthma can be cured, if it (be) detected early.
20. ✓ If you scream, nobody (hear) you.
21. If you do not come, my party (be) ruined.
22. If the chemical is dangerous, I (stop) its production.
23. ✓ If Chris hears of this development, he (be) pleased.
24. If you allow me, I (write) the cheque now.
25. The infection will relapse, if you (not take) the complete course of antibiotics.
26. That will not be possible until he (get) a divorce.
27. ✓ You will find it, if you (look) in the right place.
28. If I leave him even for a moment, he (run) away.
29. If wrestlers are asked to play football, it (be) a new way of training.
30. Unless you lose the key, you (have) no trouble.
31. If you promise to behave, I (call) her down.
32. You will be rich if he (leave) you even five percent of his property.
33. Give me £100, if you (not want) me to tell her anything.
34. He will be rewarded, if he (do) the work well.
35. Unless you take some action, the indiscipline (increase)
36. If you quarrel again, I (send) you out of the room.
37. Keep the volume of the T.V. down or else we (be) punished.
38. If they want to be political activists, they (have) to learn to lie.



39. The children will not respect him unless he (stop) drinking.
40. Move an inch and I (shoot).
41. If you marry a rich woman, you (not have) to work all your life.
42. They will win the match, if they (not drop) catches like last time.
43. If he does not appear before the Disciplinary Board, he (be) expelled.
44. Hurry up or else we (not get) tickets.
45. If you throw a ball in the pond, it (float).
46. If you write in points, you (get) better marks.
47. He will bring pirated films, if the Border Police (allow) it.
48. Get me a job and I (be) grateful all my life.
49. If you deposit Rs. 100 in this scheme, you (get) Rs. 600 after five years.
50. Try to mount that horse and it (throw) you down.
51. If the rent is reasonable, I (stay) for two weeks.
52. The wild animals will come near our tent, if we (leave) food lying around.
53. If they give me one more chance, I (prove) them wrong.
54. The form will reach in time, if he (send) it by Speed Post.
55. How shall I concentrate, if the neighbours (sing and dance) all night?
56. If Wednesday is a holiday, we (schedule) the class for some other day.
57. If we steal this picture, we (be) caught.
58. If I get a pension, you (not see) a penny of it.
59. If you lose your badge you (be) in trouble.
60. You will be sorry if you (not apologise) at once.

#### Conditional Sentences : Type II :

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

1. I would never forgive you, if you (not come) to the party.
2. If we went outside in this weather, we (die).

3. If you (play) golf, you would become the amateur champion.
4. If I were you, I (try) to get some sleep.
5. We would name the pup 'Tyson', if it (try) to bite your ear.
6. If he did not get help quickly, he (not survive)
7. If Mr. Churchill fell into the Thames, it (be) a misfortune.
8. If somebody pulled him out of it, it (be) a tragedy.
9. I (not marry) him, if he were the last man on earth.
10. What would we do on the island, if we (get) there?
11. If you went deeper, you (find) that Kay is short for Katherine.
12. If she sold the airplane, she (buy) a diamond necklace.
13. If I wanted a test done, I (take) a sample.
14. If you (know) the official procedure, you would not ask such questions.
15. If he (find out) the truth, he would withdraw his contract.
16. If you wore a set of false teeth, nobody (recognise) you.
17. I would not feel so guilty, if he (accept) my apologies.
18. If he owned a piece of land, he (start) a school.
19. If I were him, I (be) extra careful.
20. If he got arrested, he (lose) the inheritance.
21. The money would go to charities, if he (prove) unworthy.
22. Valerie (not marry) him, if he did not clear his exams.
23. He would work hard, if there (be) something at stake.
24. If the teachers regularly asked questions, the students (be) more attentive.
25. If you met Abraham Lincoln at Marine Drive, what you (say) to him?
26. If I met Lincoln, I (ask) him to be reborn in India.
27. You would have to be very patient, if you (want) to sight a Siberian Crane.
28. He would be very lucky, if he (get) through the first stage.
29. If you left the cassette in the car, it (be) spoilt.
30. If one pulled hard enough, it (break).

31. If I told her there are no ghosts, she (not believe) me.
32. I would lend it to you, if it (be) mine.
33. If I saw him, I (argue) the matter with him.
34. I would not be surprised, if this house (have) a ghost.
35. If he specialised in designing bridges, he (be) much sought after.
36. If we went home at once, we (reach) in time for 'Ramayan'.
37. If I were the judge, I (send) you to prison for 6 years.
38. It would be a great service to the public, if you (accept) this post.
39. If you went to a very good school, you (avoid) learning any science, you (learn) only classics.
40. It would be awful, if the Press (get) hold of this.
41. The wolves would burst into song, if there (be) a touch of frost in the air.
42. If they got out of the enclosure, they (tear) us to pieces.
43. If we introduced good ideas into their minds, they (grow up) into useful citizens.
44. If you relied on him, you (repent).
45. If she were taller, she (participate) in the contest.
46. Unless you did something, I (be) ruined.
47. If the children had their way, there (be) no divorce.
48. If he asked me why I wanted to become a doctor, what I (say) ?
49. If Sam (the bear) were irritated, he (let) you know by giving a warning growl.
50. I (not forgive) her, if she went down on bended knees.
51. If you were as poor as me, you (not afford) morals.
52. If there were 20 ways of telling the truth and one way of telling a lie, he (find) it out.
53. Unless they told me, how I (know) ?
54. If it (not be) for you, I would not ride any more.
55. If it were of the smallest interest, you (not tell) it to a perfect stranger.

56. If he came, I (see) him.
57. The garden would look beautiful, if we (plant) a few shrubs.
58. If I saw her at the party, I (avoid) her.
59. You would feel happier, if you (work) harder.
60. If you told them something was impossible, they (dig) out the time when you said it was 'easy'.

**Conditional Sentences : Type III :****Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.**

1. ✓ She would have heard the noise, if she (be) awake.
2. We could have warned you, if you (ask) us.
3. If we had planted trees during the construction, they (be) huge by now.
4. If she had seen anything unusual, she (inform) us.
5. If he had not caught the nearby table, he (fall).
6. If the circumstances had been normal, Jerry (not permit) her to pay.
7. He would have sworn, if ladies (not be) present.
8. ✓ If the city laws had permitted, they (build) a skyscraper here.
9. The Professor would have gone to America, if the University (fund) the visit.
10. The party would have been a success, if the food (not be) insufficient.
11. He would have accepted the \$ 40,000, if they (offer) it for the Party.
12. If I had found livelier words, the poem (be) better.
13. ✓ The dolphin (jump) through the ring, if you had trained her.
14. If Molly had had more sense, she (not sign) this contract.
15. If her stepmother had been kinder, Cinderella (not marry) a Prince.
16. ✓ If his father had increased his allowance, he (spend) it on video games and junk food.
17. The team could have rescued the child, if he (not panic).
18. His career would have been ruined, if he (sign) all the films offered to him.



19. The story (be) more interesting, if the heroine had eloped.
20. If he had been satisfied with what he had, he (not take) such a risk.
21. If the Smiths had invited all their friends, the number (be) in thousands.
22. If the floor board had not creaked, the thief (not be discover)
23. If the painter had used shades of blue, the effect (be) different.
24. Had the driver been drunk, the bus (fall) into the ditch.
25. If mosquitoes had not been controlled, the Panama Canal never (be build).
26. The story would have been different, if Goldilocks (enter) a lion's den.
27. If betting had been legalised, this scandal (not occur).
28. The teacher could not have got full marks, if he (attempt) this paper.
29. If we had accepted that proposal, it (save) us millions of pounds.
30. His behaviour would have passed unnoticed, if the gathering (be) large.
31. If you had asked her, she (tell) you the solution.
32. If Molly had admitted her mistake, Polly (not be) punished.
33. If the soldier had gone back, he (die).
34. If Gerry had continued the medicine for a week, he (not have) a relapse.
35. She would have been furious, if I as much as (look) at another girl.
36. If the poacher had not been caught, he (kill) all the tuskers.
37. If Peter had not warned John, he (fall) into the puddle.
38. The stage would have looked better, if they (put) colourful streamers.
39. If we had talked face to face, it (be) better.
40. Michael (not believe) me if I had told him the sun was hot.

## Conditional Sentences : Mixed Types :

Complete the following sentences :

1. If the judge gives him a life sentence .....
2. If the ball hit the beehive .....
3. If the topics had been displayed a week earlier .....
4. Unless he has a heart of stone .....
5. I would have thrown it into the waste paper basket .....
6. If the ship ignores signals to stop .....
7. If you went to UK in April .....
8. If global warming continues at this rate .....
9. If the Chef had tasted the soup before serving .....
10. Celina would return the ring to him if, .....
11. If the hard disc crashes, .....
12. The Manager would have been furious, if .....
13. If you do not improve your handwriting, .....
14. Cyrus would have been arrested, if .....
15. If the athlete took drugs, .....
16. You can get a discount, if .....
17. Steffi would have stayed longer, if .....
18. Book your seats now, or else .....
19. George will resume his duties on Monday, unless .....
20. If the doctor had arrived earlier .....
21. It would be much easier to learn English .....
22. The baby will go on crying until .....
23. Ideas can be turned into fortunes, if .....
24. If his father had not been so stubborn .....
25. If you are willing to work hard .....
26. If we got separated and never found each other again .....
27. If you heard the crash, why .....
28. If ever I go to Australia .....
29. If curfew had not been imposed .....
30. If the trunk is too heavy .....
31. Had I not seen it with my own eyes .....

32. Unless he pays the former dues .....
33. If I were an angel .....
34. I shall not accept this offer even if .....
35. If the Principal wanted to remove him from the post .....
36. If the company makes a profit in the first year .....
37. If an angel granted you three wishes .....
38. Unless he tenders a written apology .....
39. If the garage door had been locked .....
40. Children would find school more interesting, if .....
41. The police would have found the murderer, if .....
42. The kidnappers will release the hostages, if .....
43. If the low pressure area moves north .....
44. She would not have come today, if .....
45. If the then Indian leaders had not consented to partition .....
46. Your back hand strokes will improve, if .....
47. If you read 50 pages a day .....
48. If Mahatma Gandhi were to see India now .....
49. If he does not report back by the 15th of May .....
50. If the counselling had been postponed .....
51. Would you have remained single, if .....
52. If you saw a bear in the campus .....
53. If Zimbabwe wins the Second Test Match .....
54. If your telephone rang at 3 a.m. ....
55. If you drop a 50p coin into the machine .....
56. If Mary had known about his police record .....
57. If his name were Psmith instead of Smith .....
58. We will take the stairs, if .....
59. The British would never have left India, if .....
60. If I got the chance to go to Los Angeles .....
61. If you ignore your tooth-ache .....
62. They would have selected Bill for the role if .....

63. If you use this lotion regularly for a fortnight .....
64. If your dog steals my chickens again .....
65. He would have been thrilled, if .....

*Exercises (advanced) :*

Put the verb(s) in bracket into their correct tense form :

1. If there (be) no black and white, there can be no grey.
2. If you have a written script, you (use) it as a safety net.
3. Pauses (be) powerful, only if they (be) silent.
4. If you are thinking of the expense, that (be) taken care of.
5. If you had managed to extract anything from that man, the money (be) well spent.
6. This stone (pay) half the total bill for this building's construction, if it ever (be) used for that purpose.
7. If the scent had been stronger, the dogs (have) no difficulty following it.
8. If you refuse to sign the guarantee, I never (talk) to you again.
9. If he drove 500 miles to get here, he (expect) something grander.
10. If you (ride) a better race on our horse, none of this would have happened.
11. If he went to art college, he (study) the history of art.
12. If you were hurt, you (lash out) at the nearest object.
13. If she had lived anywhere else, she (not accept) his sudden appearance so readily.
14. If you (draw) the diagram correctly, you (get) two extra marks.
15. Guns (not fire), if it were at all avoidable.
16. If De Beer had known the treasure that lay beneath his farm, he (not sell) it \$ 3000.
17. He must visit the Opera House, if he ever (go) to Australia.
18. His brother would be able to help us, if he (be) here.
19. You will have to buy leather gloves, if the weather (get) colder.
20. The horse (not kick) you, if it had not been in pain.