

Module 25

Speech

Listen carefully to a man and a woman engaged in a discussion. After that, you will be required to provide answers to the questions that follow by choosing the correct alternative from those provided below. Now, listen to the passage:

The teacher now reads the passage for this lesson in the appendix.

Questions

1. The two people are discussing the issue of whether or not we
 - A. are happier than our forefathers.
 - B. have more than our forefathers.
 - C. are more convenient than our forefathers.
2. The woman holds on to her opinion on the ground that
 - A. life is safer nowadays than ever before.
 - B. there is much more wealth now than before.
 - C. there are more modern facilities than before.
3. The man insists on his views on the ground that
 - A. life is less safe than before.
 - B. there are fewer accidents than before.
 - C. life is more difficult than before.
4. If we should sum up what the woman was stressing, it is that
 - A. more wealth translates to more happiness.
 - B. happiness is a product of more security.
 - C. modern inventions have made life more convenient.
5. If we should sum up what the man was saying, it is that
 - A. to be happy, one has to be poor.
 - B. more wealth and more materials do not necessarily make one happier.
 - C. one cannot have wealth and material things without having stress.

Grammatical Structure

Conditional clauses

In *Functional English for SS Book 1*, we introduced you to **if** clauses in the likely condition, unlikely condition and unfulfilled condition. **If** clauses are conditional clauses. In this module, we shall learn about

other **if** clauses.

Read the following dialogue carefully.

Boy: Papa, you never listen to me.

Papa: Of course I do.

Boy: If I grow up, I will spend time with my children.

Papa: But I stay with you.

Boy: Not enough, Papa. If I have some homework, you are not there to help me.

Papa: But your sister helps you with your assignment.

Boy: If I were a father, I would be there for my children.

Papa: You don't understand, my son. Fathers need time to make the money that pays the house rent and puts food on the table.

Boy: If I become a father, I shall make my children my priority, not money.

Papa: It is easier said than done. Don't worry, when you grow up, you will understand.

Boy: You will be surprised that I understand perfectly. If I were you I would ponder on these things.

Present condition

For conditional sentences in the present, the verb in the **if** clause is in the present tense while the verb in the conclusion is also in the present tense.

- a. If this is your attitude to work, you are unfair to your employer.
(Present condition)
- b. If people are committed to their work, everybody is satisfied.
- c. If this is your style of administration, your dedication is commendable.
- d. If I am ill, I see a doctor.
- e. If things improve, increase his salary.
- f. If she reads all the time, she is focused.
- g. If the baby cannot sleep, she is restless.
- h. If things go well, you have many friends.
- i. If fuel prices drop, buy more fuel.
- j. If she tells the truth, forgive her.

Past condition

The two verbs in each sentence are in the past tense, e.g.

- a. If there was a fire, it would destroy everything.
- b. If the police arrived, the robbery would not happen.
- c. If there was trouble, the rich would flee with their families.
- d. If she wore the dresses once, she would get tired of them.
- e. If goods were supplied, they would sell everything.
- f. If she swept the floor, it would not be this dirty.
- g. If her father saw the letters, he would destroy them.

- h. If he had enough money, he would travel by plane.
- i. If you exposed your chest, you would catch the cold.

Future condition

For the future condition, while the verb in the **if** clause is in the present it is pointing to the future. The verb in the concluding sentence is also in the future.

- a. If the results are announced, I shall accept it in good faith.
- b. If she survives this surgery, we shall rejoice.
- c. If he passes his examination, he will get an employment.
- d. If Dennis does not change, he will be suspended from the boarding house.
- e. If the rain stops, Chief will attend the meeting.
- f. If the rebels cooperate, the war will end soon.
- g. If Ifeoma has a baby boy, her husband's joy will know no bounds.
- h. If Tom does a good job, he shall be sent for further training in China.
- i. If tomorrow is sunny, I will wash clothes.
- j. If we serve the chairman well, he will recommend us for promotion.

Contrary-to-fact condition

These conditional clauses are in the present time and the conclusions use the past subjunctive.

When we use *wish* and the past form of a verb, it means that we would like things to be different. As the name implies, these clauses refer to situations which do not exist at the time the speech is made. Note the verb used in the concluding clause,

- a. If this dress were mine, I would not wear it.
- b. If I were the Vice-Chancellor, I would suspend all the students involved.
- c. If I were your mother, I would stop you from watching TV.
- d. If I were your teacher, I would keep asking you questions.
- e. If I were the president, I would build refineries.
- f. If I were a father, I would make my sons my best friends.
- g. If I were an adult, I would never keep late night.
- h. If I were rich, I would pay school fees for the poor people in my village.
- i. If I were a lawyer, I would not bill my poor clients.
- j. If I had the time, I would learn how to make beads.

Is it correct to say:

- a* If this dress was mine, I would not wear it.
- b* If I was the Vice-Chancellor, I would suspend all the students involved.

Sentences of this type are usually considered inappropriate in English.

Reading Comprehension

Before reading study and discuss the following:

- ✎ Can you think of a Nigerian meal for which palm oil is not used?
- ✎ There are, but they are not many.
- ✎ Can you think of the very many useful products taken from the oil palm?
- ✎ But why was the oil palm, whose oil and kernels used to be among the leading export products, later overtaken by other export products?
- ✎ What future do you think awaits the oil palm?
- ✎ What new uses can we make of the products from the oil palm?

The Oil Palm

Some call it the “money tree”™, others see it as the life giving crop since its several products end up on the table while its wine is strong and tasty, and its fronds are the materials with which such common household materials as baskets and brooms are made. It is the oil palm tree, grown throughout the rain forest and savannah regions of West Africa. Its *notable* main products are the red oil, the kernel, and the palm kernel oil, each of which has high commercial value. We examine each a little more closely.



Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil obtained from the red fruit of the palm tree. It used to be the second most widely produced edible oil in the world, after soybean oil, but the opinion is that it may have now *surpassed* soybean oil. The palm fruit is the source of both palm oil (extracted from palm fruit) and **palm kernel oil** (extracted from the fruit seed which is in its very hard shell). Palm oil itself is reddish and is used as cooking oil, also to make margarine and is a component of many processed foods. Heating it a few minutes destroys its constituents and the oil becomes white. Palm oil is one of the few vegetable oils relatively high in saturated fats. Palm oil was long recognized among West African peoples, among whom it is extensively used as cooking oil. *European merchants occasionally purchased palm oil for use in Europe, but as the oil was bulky and cheap, the oil palm was not encouraged in places outside West Africa.* In the Ghana Asante Confederacy, large plantations of oil palm trees were cultivated, while in the neighbouring present day Benin Republic, King Ghezo *enacted* a law in 1856 forbidding the cutting down of oil palms. The oil being found to be a good lubricant for the machines of the ongoing Industrial Revolution, apart from forming the basis for different brands of soap, British traders turned it into a highly sought-after commodity. By about

1870, palm oil constituted the primary export of some countries like Ghana and Nigeria. However, by the 1880s, cocoa had assumed the first position among cash crops in those two countries, thus causing the decline of the palm oil industry.

The palm oil and palm kernel oil are composed of fatty acids. Palm oil is very high in vitamin E, vitamin K and dietary magnesium. The whitish coloured palm wine was the *principal* social drink in the pre-colonial days. It is also the base for some other forms of highly alcoholic gins. Unfortunately the brewing of such was banned during the colonial days, apparently to prevent it from being a rival to imported gins. The palm wine, which is still commonly used in many communities today, has constituents similar to those found in the red oil and palm kernel oil.

Despite the highly recognised importance of the oil palm for the economy and dietary practices in West Africa, later dependence on cocoa and petroleum, especially in Nigeria, greatly eclipsed its importance. There was thus a serious complacency with respect to the growth and processing of the oil palm. For instance, Malaysia came to Nigeria to acquire some oil palm seedlings in the 1950s and went on to greatly improve upon its variety; today, she has seriously *surpassed* Nigeria in oil palm production.

Today, demand for palm oil is rising and is expected to rise further, particularly for use in biodiesel, which is promoted as a form of renewable energy. This would mean that just like sugar cane and cassava, the palm oil would be a source for ethanol, a form of renewable fuel, which has the added advantage of greatly reducing the net emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. (635 words)

Without going back to the passage, answer the following questions:

1. From the various names given to the oil palm, we can conclude that the oil palm is
 - A. the most popular crop grown by the people.
 - B. highly regarded for its various economic values.
 - C. grown for economic purposes only.
 - D. grown for food purposes only.
2. From the passage, we can see that
 - A. different seeds from the tree yield the two types of oil.
 - B. the same part of the seed can yield whichever of the oil desired.
 - C. different parts of the same seed yield the two types of oil.
 - D. one type of oil is a by-product from the other type of oil.
3. From this passage we can say that the oil palm tree is today mostly grown in
 - A. Nigeria.
 - B. Ghana.
 - C. Benin Republic.

- D. Malaysia.
4. From the passage, we can say that the colonial powers did not promote its growth outside its rain forest area because
 - A. it was cheap and easily available.
 - B. it was not considered to have commercial value.
 - C. they did not want other areas to pose serious rivalry.
 - D. the people supplied the crop on that condition.
 5. The brewing of gins from palm wine was made illegal by colonial powers apparently
 - A. because the gin was considered unsafe for human beings.
 - B. because the gin was brewed under unhygienic conditions.
 - C. so as not to constitute serious rivalry to imported gins.
 - D. as a result of several cases of drunkenness.
 6. Today, the palm oil can be processed to be used as
 - A. an engine lubricant.
 - B. a detergent.
 - C. a cooking oil.
 - D. A bio-diesel.

Now read the passage again and answer the following questions:

7. Why did cocoa overtake the oil palm as the leading export crop in West Africa?
8. Describe the several products processed from the oil palm.
9. Why did Malaysia which came to Nigeria to get some seedlings some years ago become the leading oil palm grower in the world?
10. How would you describe the future of oil palms in West African countries?
11. *European merchants occasionally purchased palm oil for use in Europe, but as the oil was bulky and cheap, the oil palm was not encouraged in places outside West Africa.*
 - a. What is the grammatical name for this type of sentence?
 - b. Identify its clauses and state their functions.
12. Replace each of the following words with another suitable one as used in the passage:
 - a. *notable*
 - b. *surpassed*
 - c. *enacted*
 - d. *principal*
 - e. *surpassed.*

Summary Work

Before going over to the summary exercise proper:

- identify the main theme of the passage;
- identify the minor points used to build up that main theme;
- recognise the way the various other crops are brought in to compare with the oil palm; and
- recognise the several uses made, or which can be made, from the palm tree.

With that, now do the following. In the table below, for each of the tasks indicated in the left column, provide the appropriate response in the right column.

Tasks	Summaries (one sentence each)
a. The main theme of the passage.	
b. The fate of the oil palm during the colonial days.	
c. The various products made From the oil palm fruits.	
d. The changing positions of oil palm and soybeans over the years.	
e. The new potentials for palm oil.	

Vocabulary Development

Commonly mis-spelt words

Of all the mechanical problems confronting most students nowadays, poor spelling ranks high on the list. Let us examine some of the words which students often misspell.

suffered horrible necessary ferry popular bridegroom impalpable rampart	deliberate tomorrow diarrhoea suppose calendar population illegible reckless	secretary baggage suffer harmonise complimentary judgement scissors quest	brilliant noncommittal embarrass supplementary believable knowledgeable sluggish candour	accommodation committee support hideous nuisance hierarchy sacrosanct candid
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Activity I

Choose any 20 words from the table above and use your dictionary to check their meanings.

Activity II

Form correct sentences with any 10 of the words you have checked up in the dictionary.

Activity III

Form correct sentences with the following pairs of words:

knew	new	piece	peace
leave	live	tank	thank
cut	cot	kiss	keys
bait	bate	sole	soul
then	den	back	bark

Continuous Writing

Report writing”2

Read the following report made by Mr Usman Yahaya on a case of brutal killing.

REPORT MADE BY MR USMAN YAHAYA ON A CASE OF BRUTAL KILLINGS AT KAWO, KADUNA, ON 14TH FEBRUARY, 2006.

I like to make a report of a case of killings that occurred at the main market, Kawo, Kaduna. The incident happened on 14th February 2006 at 10 a.m. I arrived at Kawo as early as 8 a.m. and I opened my shop at 8.30a.m. After cleaning the surroundings. I heard a shout from the third shop to my own and I thought it expedient to go and ascertain what was happening.

One Mr Audu, one of the tenants in one of the buildings around the area, was under the influence of alcohol. He had drunk heavily the previous day, and the “hangover”™ was still in him till the following morning. I learnt that he even took some bottles of Schnapps gin that same morning. He decided to buy a loaf of bread and milk at the shop. The woman attended to him and gave him his change of ₦25.

However, the man claimed that the woman had not given him his change. They argued this matter for about five minutes, and people around tried in vain to convince the man that the woman had given him the change. The change was even in his pocket. Out of fury, the man just dashed into

his room without telling anyone what he was going to do. He then came out with a long and sharp dagger in his hand.

He shouted at the woman again to give him his change. Suddenly, he inflicted on the woman several dagger cuts; the woman fell and died. He faced the other two women trying to settle the matter and cut off the head of one and cut the other in the belly. The two of them died instantly. People around started running helter-skelter, looking for escape routes.

A police van was passing by and was stopped by one of the sympathizers. The man was arrested, hand-cuffed and bundled into the police vehicle. The corpses were lying on the ground until a police man later came to collect them. They were taken to the State Hospital mortuary.

It was a pathetic case. Such a man was not supposed to be living among human beings. It was a terrible, brutal killing. Such an act should be stopped in the society of sane people.

Did you notice that appropriate registers were used? Can you cite some of them? The incident was reported in the past tense. Why?

You will now write your own report of a case of examination malpractice during an internal or public examination.