

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES AND THEIR STRUCTURES AND METHODS OF USE

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Abstract: In this paper, we can learn that what are conditional clauses, how to use them in what situations and how to use them to form correct sentences. It must be said that a thorough study of the subject of conditional clauses is very useful and beneficial for every English language learner.

Keywords: Conditional clause, complex sentence, conjunction, main clause, subordinate clause.

INTRODUCTION

We know that many people struggle to make complex sentences in both written and spoken English. Additionally, studying the theme of conditionals gives us the opportunity to form high-level sentences, and everyone who has studied the subject of conditionals in depth will develop all their English skills. So, what are conditional clauses and how to use them properly?

EXPLANATION

In English, clauses with the conjunction **if** are called conditional clauses and they consist mainly of two parts: a main clause and a subordinate clause. The sentence with the conjunction **If** is called a subordinate clause, and the part connected to it is called a main clause.

Example: We will go to the park If the weather is good

A condition for an action to occur: If the weather is good

Action that is performed when a condition is met: we will go to the park.

Conditional clauses are divided into four main types according to the tense and meaning.

- Zero conditional
- First conditional
- Second conditional
- Third conditional

Zero conditional clause

This type of conditional clauses are mainly used for general truth and laws of nature that are equally understandable to everyone.

Structure:

Main clause: present simple

If clause: present simple

Example: If the water freezes, It becomes ice.

You should practice If you want to learn English well.

First conditional clause

This type of conditional sentences expresses sentences that are highly and likely to happen in the present or future. Although the thought is in the future, the present simple is used in the subordinate sentence.

Structure:

Main clause: Future simple/imperative

If clause: Present simple

Example: If I go, she will come.

Call me If you want to talk with me.

Furthermore, we can use modal verbs like **can, could, may, might** in the main clause.

Example: You may come to my home If you want to meet with me.

Second conditional clause

This type of conditional clauses are used for imaginary situations that are not real in the present, and are also used when recommending others. If the verb in the past tense is used in the sentence, it means the present tense.

Structure:

Main clause: would/could/might + bare infinitive

If clause: past simple tense

Example: If you studied hard, you would enter the University.

Although **I** is the first person and singular, it is used **were** for **I** in the conditional clauses.

Example: If I were you, I would buy a car.

Third conditional clause

This type of conditional clauses are used for sentences in imaginary situations that are compared to events that happened in the past. Additionally, they are used to express regret for something done.

Structure:

Main clause: Have + V3

If clause: Past perfect tense

Example: If I had studied hard, I would have been a student.

If you had walked carefully, you would not have broken your leg.

Mixed conditional clause

Mixed conditionals result from the mixing of the second and third type of conditionals.

Structure:

Main clause: would + v1

If clause: past perfect tense

Example: If I had saved more money, I would buy a new breed car.

- If the subordinate clause comes at the beginning of the sentence, a comma (,) is placed after it. But if the main clause comes before the subordinate clause, there is no comma (,) before **If**.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, In scientific writing and speech, conditional clauses play an important role in order to make advanced constructions. Moreover, by studying conditionals, we can enrich our both writing and our speech.

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