



SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (Po), Coimbatore - 641 107



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If Conditionals

Conditional Clauses

A conditional clause is a type of subordinate clause, most commonly introduced by the conjunction if or unless. Like most subordinate clauses introduced by a conjunction, the conditional clause can either go before the main clause, or after it.

Example

If I have enough money, I will go to Japan.
conditional clause **main clause**

I will go to Japan, if I have enough money
main clause **conditional clause**

First, Second, and Third Conditional

First conditional : If I have enough money, I will go to Japan.

Second conditional : If I had enough money, I would go to Japan.

Third conditional : If I had had enough money, I would have gone to Japan.

Conditional clause

Main clause

1. If + Present Tense will + inf / present tense / imperative
 - a) If you help me with the dishes (if + pres),
I will help you with your homework. (will + inf)
 - b) If the sum of the digits of a number is divisible by three,
the number is divisible by three (Pres. tense)
 - c) If you see Mr Fox tonight, tell him I am ill. (imperative).
2. If + Past Tense would + inf
3. If + Past Perfect Tense would have + past participle

We do not normally use **will** or **would** in the conditional clause, only in the main clause.

Uses of the Conditional

First conditional

a) Nature: Open condition, what is said in the condition is possible.

b) Time: This condition refers either to present or to future



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time.

e.g. If he is late, we will have to go without him.

If my mother knows about this, we are in serious trouble.

Second conditional

a) Nature: unreal (impossible) or improbable situations.

b) Time: present; the TENSE is past, but we are talking about the present, now.

e.g. If I knew her name, I would tell you.

If I were you, I would tell my father.

Compare: If I become president, I will change the social security system. (Said by a presidential candidate)

If I became president, I would change the social security system. (Said by a schoolboy: improbable)

If we win this match, we are qualified for the semifinals.

If I won a million pounds, I would stop teaching. (improbable)

Third conditional

a) Nature: unreal

b) Time: Past (so we are talking about a situation that was not so in the past.)

e.g. If you had warned me, I would not have told your father about that party. (But you didn't, and I have).

Remember!

1. The conditional construction does not normally use will or would in if-clauses. EXCEPTION: If will or would express willingness, as in requests, they can be used in if-clauses.

e.g. If you will come this way, the manager will see you now.

I would be grateful if you would give me a little help.

(= ± please, come this way; please, give me...)

2. For the second conditional, were replaces was:

If I were a rich man...



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3. After if, we can either use "some(-one, -where...)" or "any(-one, -where...).

If I have some spare time next weekend....or :

If I have any spare time...

4. Instead of if not, we can use unless.

e.g. I'll be back tomorrow unless there is a plane strike.

He'll accept the job unless the salary is too low.

5. There is a "mixed type" as well, for the present results of an unreal condition in the past:

If + Past Perfect - would + inf.

If you had warned me [then], I would not be in prison [now].

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

EXERCISE - I

Complete these statements with the correct form of the verb :

1. If the supply of coolant (fail), emergency controls operate immediately.
2. If the nucleus (contain) an excess of neutrons, one or more of them (be converted) into protons.
3. If the fuel (reach) this critical temperature it (ignite) spontaneously.
4. The conveyor belt (be) liable to slip off the drive if it (stretch)
5. If the combustion gases (not be diluted), the temperatures at the turbine (be) too high.
6. Harmful radiations (result) unless the isotopes (be shielded properly)
7. If the current (be passed) through a solenoid, a magnetic field. (be set up)



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8. If an indicator (be fitted), the pressure at any part of the stroke may be measured.
9. Neutrons (be admitted) if the uranium (be fissioned)
10. The mixture may ignite spontaneously unless the combustion chamber (be designed properly).

EXERCISE - II

Turn these statements into if statements:

1. Should the temperature fall, condensation of the steam will result.
2. Should the neutron flux increase, the flow of coolant must also increase.
3. Should the work not be completed by March, the contract will be cancelled.
4. Should the supply of lubricant fail, the bearings will become overheated.
5. Should the oil deposits prove extensive, the national revenue will be greatly increased.
6. Should the boiler scale not be removed regularly, heat transfer will be impaired.
7. Should the airspeed fall below a certain value, the airflow over the wings will be broken up.
8. Should the gases be allowed to escape unburnt, there will be appreciable heat losses.
9. Should the neutron flux rise any further, more control rods should be inserted into the core.



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EXERCISE - III

Complete the following sentences :

1. If you travel on foot boards _____.
2. If you don't apply lubricant to a machine periodically _____.
3. If you don't supervise the workers in a company _____.
4. If the computer is used properly _____.
5. If vehicles don't keep left on roads _____.
6. If passengers stand on the footboards of the buses, _____.
[AU, April / May - 2004]
7. If the engine is serviced regularly, _____.
[AU, April / May - 2005]
8. If _____, you will get distinction. [AU, Nov / Dec - 2004]
9. If drivers do not obey traffic regulations, _____.
[AU, Nov / Dec - 2004]
10. There would have been a major accident if the driver _____.
[AU, May / June - 2005]
11. If the battery of the car is down _____ [AU, May / June - 2005]
12. If we were to appreciate the good deed of others. [AU, Jan - 2006]
13. If you want to get good marks in the examinations.
14. If the pedestrians do not use the subways for crossing main roads _____ [AU, May / June - 2006]
15. If the furnace temperature reaches 400 degree centigrade _____
16. If the raw materials had come in time _____
17. If the economic downtrend continues, _____ [AU, Jan - 2009]
18. _____, global warming would have been reduced.
[AU, Jan - 2009]



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19. If the roads of the city are widened, _____
[AU, May / June - 2009]
20. If I had not worn a helmet that day, _____ [AU, May/June - 2009]
21. If he were kinder _____ [AU, May / June - 2009]
22. If I had a million dollars _____ [AU, May / June - 2009]
23. If the weather had been fine, _____
24. If you remove this fuse, _____ [AU, Jan - 2010]
25. If drivers do not obey traffic regulations, _____
26. _____, the temperature at the turbine will be too high.
[AU, June - 2010]

EXERCISE - IV

Rewrite using unless:

1. If the steam is not superheated, higher pressures will be necessary.
2. Harmful radiations will result if the isotopes are not shielded properly.
3. If the combustion gases are not diluted, the temperature at the turbine will be too high.
4. You will succeed in life only if you work hard.
5. If safety precautions are not observed, there will be an accident.