## **Conditionals 1**

#### A Conditions and results

- Compare these sentences. The 'If ...' clause is the condition, and the other part of the sentence
  is the result.
- 1 If sales increase (generally), we make more profit.
- 2 If sales increase (next quarter), we'll make more profit.
- 3 If sales increased (next quarter), we'd make more profit.
- 4 If sales increased (last quarter), the Director should be happier.
- 5 If sales had increased (last quarter), the Director would have been happier.
- Sentence 1 is about something that is always true. See section B below.

  Sentence 2 is about something that is reasonably likely to happen in the future. See section C.

  Sentence 3 is about something that is imaginary or unlikely in the future. See section D.
- Sentences 4 and 5 are about the past. See unit 18.
- With all types of conditionals the If clause can come second. We'll make more profit if sales increase. We'd make more profit if sales increased.

## B If we sell ... (always true)

When we want to talk about things that are always or generally true, we use:

If/When + present, present simple or imperative

(condition)

(result)

In this type of conditional we are not referring to one specific event.

If people understand that change is necessary, they have an appetite for it. ... If you don't get the best people into the company, your product suffers. (Business Week website)

In the condition clause there can be a variety of present forms.

When you fly business class, you get much more legroom. (present sim

If interest rates are rising, bank loans become more expensive. (present continuous)

When you've finished the course, you get a certificate.

(present perfect)

In the result clause there can be a present simple (last examples) or an imperative. When you fly business class, **don't drink** too much of the free alcohol.

Notice that we can use either if or when where the meaning is 'every time'.

## C If we sell ... (likely future)

When we want to talk about future events that will happen, or are likely to happen, we use:

If + present, future or imperative

(condition)

(result)

If the compromise deal fails, who knows what will happen at Equitable Life? (Telegraph website)

\* In the condition clause there can be a variety of present forms.

If you increase your order, we'll give you a bigger discount. (present simple)
If you're meeting her at three, I'll join you later at about four. (present continuous)

If I've made any mistakes, I'll correct them later.

(present perfect)

In the result clause 'II is common (last examples). We can also use other future forms or an imperative.

If you increase your order, you're going to get a bigger discount. (going to future) If he doesn't get the job, he'll have done a lot of work for nothing. (future perfect) If anyone from Head Office calls, say I'm in a meeting. (imperative)

The examples above are about two actions in the future. If the result clause refers to the present we use a present tense.

If anyone calls, I'm in a meeting all morning.

If you need me, I'm working in the room at the end of the corridor.

# D If we sold ... (imaginary future)

When we want to talk about future events that are imaginary, unlikely or impossible, we use:

If + past simple or continuous, would/could/might + infinitive

(condition)

(result)

'Outsourcing is the only solution. **If we did** all of this stuff ourselves, **we would have to** have at least 1,000 people working here,' estimates Ardai. (Business Week website)

In the condition clause we can use a past simple or past continuous.

If you wanted a quantity discount, you'd have to order at least 1,000 units.

If you were still speaking after an hour, the audience would probably be bored.

Note the past form in the condition clause, but the future time reference.

## E Unless

Unless means the same as If ... not.

Polish attitudes are dominated by the belief that unless Poland joins the European Union, things can only get worse. (Le Monde Diplomatique website)

Compare these sentences which have the same meaning:

If he doesn't arrive soon, he'll miss the start of the presentation.

Unless he arrives soon, he'll miss the start of the presentation.

## F Other modals

The modals used in this unit are mainly *will* and *would*. We can use all other modals like *can*, *could*, *must*, etc, with their normal meanings.

# 17 Practice

## Exercise 1 B C D E

Underline the correct words.

- 1 If we're/we would be late, they'll start/they'd start without us.
- 2 If we will take/take a taxi, we'll arrive/we arrive sooner.
- 3 If we worked/would work for ADC, we'll get/we'd get a better salary.
- 4 When inflation will go/goes up, there would be/is usually pressure on salaries.
- 5 If we don't hurry/won't hurry, we would be/we'll be late.
- 6 If you change/are changing your mind, give me/you will give me a ring.
- 7 Unless you click/would click on that icon, it didn't/it won't print out.
- 8 If you ordered/order on the Net, we always will send/send an email confirmation.
- 9 If I lend/will lend you this book, when do you return/will you return it?

2 When ....... a lot of orders, we always employ extra staff in the factory.

4 If the computer crashes, ....... someone from the IT department.
a) you'd call/you are calling b) call/you'll have to call

a) we'll get/we got b) we get/we've got
 If ....... this project again, I think I'd do it differently.
 a) I was starting/I started b) I'll start/I've started

10 If you heard/hear anything in the next few days, let me/letting me know.

## Exercise 2 C D

LA	CIL	13e 2 C D				
Read these sentences and decide if the events are likely or imaginary. Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the present simple + will or the past simple + would. Use contracted forms where possible						
1	lt's r	It's not far. If you follow (follow) this road, you 11 come (come) to the station.				
2						
-		*				
3		ou				
4	63.					
4		ne council(ban) all cars from the city centre, there(not be) so chipollution.				
-		200 (a) (a) (b) (a) (b) (b) (b) (b) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c) (c				
5	A:	I have no idea what the other side are going to propose in the negotiation tomorrow.				
	B:	Neither do I. If I (know), I (tell) you.				
6	A:	My train leaves in forty minutes.				
	B:	It only takes ten minutes to the station by taxi. If you(leave) now, you				
7	A:	Is that the time? I really should be going.				
	B:	If you (wait) a moment, I (give) you a lift.				
8	A:	Would you like to go to English evening classes with me?				
	B:	I'm sorry, but I can't. I'm really busy. If I(have) more time, I				
		(love) to.				
Ev	ove	ise 3 B C D				
EA	erc	ise 5 b C D				
Complete the sentences with the correct pair of possible forms, a) or b).						
1	If th	ne bank lends us the money,				
	a) ı	we'll invest/we're going to invest b) we'd invest/we were investing				

## Exercise 4 B C D E

Paula, a marketing manager of a car manufacturing company, is talking to her colleague Luis, a production
manager. Complete their conversation with the words from the list below.

wi	ll (x2) won't (x2) would (x2) wouldn't unless (x2) be is is going to be don't didn't			
PAULA:	Luis. Aren't you worried about the proposed strike?			
LUIS:	Well, sure			
PAULA:	You see, if the factory workers go on strike, we (1)lose a lot of production. If			
	we lose production, we (2) be able to supply all our customers.			
LUIS:	Yes, I know, but			
PAULA:	And if we (3) supply our customers, they'll probably buy other makes of car.			
	If that happens, our market share (4)			
LUIS:	Well, that's right, but			
PAULA:	And what's more, in my experience, when workers go on strike there (5) a			
	bad atmosphere for months afterwards.			
LUIS:	Yes.			
PAULA:	So, (6) you can come to an agreement with the workers soon, there			
	(7)			
LUIS:	Look, don't worry.			
PAULA:	Don't worry?			
LUIS:	Yes. Look, the workers know that the success of the company depends on this new model.			
5 550	(9) they're stupid, they (10)			
PAULA:	Oh?			
LUIS:	Now, just imagine – if it sold really well, we (11) increase our market share			
	and our profits. If that happened, we (12) need to make so many job cuts.			
	And if we (13)			
	much happier.			
PAULA:	Well, I suppose you've got a point.			
(ASSESSE)				
Exer	cise 5 B C D			
You are	e talking to a friend about your new job. Use your thoughts to complete the sentences you say. Put the			
verb in	brackets into either the present simple, past simple, imperative, will + infinitive or would + infinitive.			
You th	ink: People say that hard work usually results in promotion in this company.			
	y: (1) They say that if youwor.k (work) hard, you 4e.t. (get) promoted.			
	ink: I want to show them that I'm good at my job so that I can have more job security.			
	y: (2) I hope that if I			
my hor	ink: I've been late in the morning a few times. I wish I could work at the Leiria site which is nearer			
	vy: (3) I'm sometimes late for work. If I			
	- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
	ink: One thing worries me. I had a health problem a few years ago, but it's very unlikely that it will reoccur.			
	y: (4) I wonder what			
	hink: Maybe it's not a problem. In general they seem to be very reasonable about illness.			
You say: (5) Actually, if you				
You think: Goodbye. I hope I'll see you soon.				
rou sa	y: (6) If you(give) me a ring.			

## Conditionals 2

## A If we sold ... (possible past)

When we want to talk about past events which possibly happened, we use f + past simple in the condition clause, and any tense or modal in the result clause.

If you went to the meeting yesterday, you probably heard the news.

If you missed the TV programme last night, you can borrow the recording I made.

## If we had sold ... (imaginary past)

When we want to talk about past events that are different to what really happened, we use: ff + past perfect. would + have + past participle

(condition)

(result)

If Clinton and Gore had won the election, they would have promoted free trade agreements with other nations in the same way as Bush. (Yahoo Business News website)

There is often a suggestion of criticism or regret:

If the economic situation had been better, we wouldn't have lost so many customers.

- A contracted 'd in speech can be had in the condition or would in the result.

  If I'd done an MBA, I'd have had more opportunities.
- The examples above are about two actions in the past. If the result clause refers to the present we use would + infinitive.

If I had done an MBA, I would be on a higher salary now.

### Conditionals without if

. We use if for something that might happen in the future, or something imaginary. We use when for something that we know will happen.

I'll call you if I get a chance, (I'm not sure if I will phone you)

I'll call you when I arrive. (I will definitely phone you)

We can use either if or when where the meaning is 'every time'.

If/When anyone rings my mobile, I get a photograph of the person on the screen.

In informal speech we sometimes use imagine or supposing in place of if.

Imagine/Supposing you had a million dollars, how would you invest it?

We can use *provided that, providing, on condition that, as long as* and *so long as* for emphasis. The meaning is 'if and only if'.

As long as there is new technology, consultants will continue to be in demand. (Sunday Times website)

We can use *in case* to talk about doing something to avoid a possible problem later. The result clause usually comes first and often uses *going to*.

I'm going to give you my mobile number in case you need to contact me.

We use unless to mean If not

### D Wish

- We use I wish to express regret or dissatisfaction.
- For the present and future, use I wish followed by the past simple or continuous. I wish we didn't have so many meetings. I wish I wasn't working next weekend.
- For the past, use I wish followed by the past perfect.

I wish we had advertised on television.

I wish I hadn't eaten the oysters.

- If the wish is a good one, use I hope followed by the present simple or will.
  I hope your presentation goes well.
  I hope the merger will be a success.
- If the wish is about doing something that is difficult or impossible, use I wish I could.
  I wish I could contact him, but he hasn't got a mobile phone.
- We can replace I wish with If only for emphasis. We stress only in speech.

If only I hadn't eaten the oysters.

If only I could contact him.

#### E Modal verbs in conditionals

The examples in unit 17 were with will. But other modal verbs like can, could, may, might, must and should are common in conditional sentences and have their normal meanings.

If you deal with the Middle East you must be available to your customers on Saturdays and Sundays. (Overseas Trade magazine)

If the euro were weak in the long term, companies might slow down their drive to increase productivity and governments might put the brake on their structural reforms. (Le Monde diplomatique website)

Compaq CEO Michael Capellas commented on the recent decline of dot.com firms, which were so popular on the U.S. stock market a few months ago. If you don't have a sound business plan, you cannot succeed.' (International Herald Tribune website)

We often use present forms like will and can with likely futures, and past forms like would ('d) and could with imaginary futures.

If you **sign** now, we**'ll/can** deliver by Friday. (likely future)
If you **signed** now, we**'d/could** deliver by Friday. (imaginary future)

8ut it is also common to find mixed tense sequences because modals keep their normal meanings:

If Hungarian farmers respond to competition by improving productivity and becoming more efficient at marketing, they could have a bigger share of the market. (Business Central Europe website) With a present form (respond) we might expect can. However could is used here with its normal meaning of uncertainty (can does not express uncertainty).

#### F If I were you, ...

We can use If I were in place of If I was in imaginary futures, particularly when we give advice with the phrase If I were you.

If I were you, I'd wait until tomorrow.
I'd be more careful, if I were you.

## 18 Practice

#### Exercise 1 B F unit 17

<u>Underline</u> the correct words. This exercise includes revision of imaginary futures.

- 1 If you phoned/had phoned me yesterday, I had told/would have told you.
- 2 If you took/would have taken more exercise, you might feel/had felt better.
- 3 If Tim would have listened/had listened more carefully, he wouldn't have made/didn't make that mistake.
- 4 If we'd found/we found suitable premises, we'd have moved/we had moved earlier.
- 5 If people kept/had kept their offices more tidy, it might present/presented a better image to our visitors.
- 6 If I'd known/I would know about their financial problems, I wouldn't do/wouldn't have done business with them.
- 7 If our side had been/was better prepared, we succeeded/could have succeeded in the negotiations.
- 8 I wouldn't/won't worry if I am/were you.

### Exercise 2 C

Complete the sentences with the words from the list below. Each word is used twice.

when as long as in case unless

- 1 I'll speak to you again ......when ..... I've looked at the contract in detail.
- 2 Leave your return flight open ...... the negotiations take an extra day.
- 3 We can start the project next week ...... everyone agrees.
- 4 We can start the project next week ...... anyone disagrees.
- 5 The Board will be happy ...... our share price remains high.
- 6 Keep your receipt ...... you need to return the goods.
- 7 The new stock will arrive ...... the Christmas sales are finished.
- 8 We'll probably make a loss this year ......sales improve in the last quarter.

## Exercise 3 D

Underline the correct words.

- 1 I wish I hadn't drunk/didn't drink so many whiskies last night.
- 2 There's so little space in here. I wish I have/had a bigger office.
- 3 I don't feel well. I wish I could stay/will stay in bed this morning.
- 4 I hope you enjoyed/enjoy yourselves at the theatre tonight.
- 5 I've been waiting thirty minutes for the bus. I wish I took/had taken a taxi.
- 6 I must get in touch with Sue. If only I know/knew her number!
- 7 I'm not a good typist. I wish I could type/would type better.
- 8 I wish Jim didn't interrupt/doesn't interrupt so often in meetings.
- 9 I have to finish this report by tomorrow. If only I would have/had more time.
- 10 Enjoy your holiday. I hope you have/could have a good time.
- 11 That presentation was a disaster! I wish I could do/would do it all again!
- 12 I'm disappointed with this camera. I wish I didn't buy/hadn't bought it.

## Exercise 4 B C E

Patrick and Jurgen are discussing a negotiation that went wrong. Complete the dialogue with words from

	if as long as in case unless (x2)	'll 'd (x2) can	would have 'd have wouldn't have				
PATR	ICK: Jurgen, (1)	. vou've got a mo	ment, (2) I have a word with				
	you?	,	entransia. A statistic contransia contransia del se superior de su				
JURG		t doesn't take too	long, I've got a meeting in five minutes. Is it				
<b>9</b> 000000	about that contract that we		0, 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1				
PATR			got the deal if we				
			laybe we (6)lost the				
	business.		(-)				
JURG		m was the price.					
PATR	7		ime? If we (7) given a				
CONTRACTOR OF STREET	50 NORTH 177 NORTH	50	been more successful?				
JURG	N (1 N N (25) S S						
PATR	The state of the state of		t what went wrong (9)a				
			now, (10) we learn from our				
			orders. Now, Jurgen, tell me what do you				
	think could really have happ		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				
JURG			n't like our sales rep.				
PATR			constant contracts and contrac				
JURG	EEN: Do you know who it was?						
PATR	756 D						
Exercise 5 B E unit 17 A supplier is thinking about a negotiation in the future. Match his thoughts 1–4 with his words a)–d).							
, , ,,,,,	pplier is thinking about a negotiatio	in in the ruture, wie	tch his thoughts 1–4 with his words a)–d).				
_			——————————————————————————————————————				
1	We're likely to offer a lower price.		) If we offer a lower price,				
1	We're likely to offer a lower price.  If we do, success is possible.	Ь	) If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract.				
1 2	We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. We're likely to offer a lower price.	Ь	) If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract. ) If we offer a lower price,				
1 2	We're likely to offer a lower price.  If we do, success is possible.	а Б Б	) If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract.				
1 2	We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price.	а Б Б	) If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract. ) If we offer a lower price, we might get the contract. ) If we offered a lower price,				
2	We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain.	Б b b	we'll get the contract. If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract. If we offer a lower price, we might get the contract. If we offered a lower price, we'd get the contract.				
2	We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price.	Б b b	) If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract. ) If we offer a lower price, we might get the contract. ) If we offered a lower price, we'd get the contract. ) If we offered a lower price,				
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1 2 3 4 The	We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain.	a b b c c d	b) If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract. ) If we offer a lower price, we might get the contract. ) If we offered a lower price, we'd get the contract. ) If we offered a lower price, we might get the contract. st. Match his thoughts 5–8 with his words e)–h).				
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1 2 3 4 The 5 6 7	We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. We're likely to offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price. If we do, success is possible. Perhaps we'll offer a lower price. If we do, success is certain.  same supplier is thinking about a new offered a lower price. That's why we succeeded. We offered a lower price. That's probably why we succeeded. We didn't offer a lower price.	egotiation in the pa	If we offer a lower price, we'll get the contract. If we offer a lower price, we might get the contract. If we offered a lower price, we'd get the contract. If we offered a lower price, we might get the contract.  St. Match his thoughts 5–8 with his words e)–h). If we'd offered a lower price, we'd have got the contract. If we'd offered a lower price, we might have got the contract. If we'd offered a lower price, we might have got the contract. If we'd offered a lower price,				