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Название публикации: «CONDITIONAL SENTENCES AS MAIN FORMS OF CONDITIONALITY»

Annotation: Let's start with the fact that the conditional sentence (conditional) is used when referring to what can happen, could happen, and our immediate desires. In the English-language subordinate clause of the condition, as a rule, the union "if" is found.

Keywords: Conditional sentences, refer, tense, verb, grammatical, subordinating.

The conditional mood in English is used when it is necessary to talk about actions or events that depend on any other factors. Conditional sentences are used to describe real or unreal situations.

Real conventions describe situations from real life, and unreal conventions tell about unreal, fictional situations.⁶⁵

Let's just say this is not an easy topic. Therefore, there will be a lot of material in this article. We must read it carefully to the end, and then fix the material in the simulators at the links below.

Some conditional sentences in English use verbs in the past tense. This is called the "unreal past". And although we can use the past tense, but, in reality, we do not always refer to it, we will talk about this a little later.

There are 4 main ways to construct a conditional sentence in English - from zero to third conditional. These complex sentences usually consist of a subordinate clause that begins with an "if" conjunction (if clause) and a main clause. However, in many conditional negative sentences, the equivalent construction "unless" is also used, which already carries a negative connotation. The zero type of sentences is used for actions that must be performed when certain conditions are met. The structure of conditional

⁶⁵ Blake B. J. All About Language. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 322 p

sentences is quite simple. There are two main forms of constructing a conditional sentence.

-You'll be sick if you don't stop bingeing on junk food.

-You'll be sick unless you stop bingeing on junk food.

The meaning is essentially the same, but the grammatical structure is different.

To construct a conditional sentence, you must first determine what type it will be. This can be understood by the degree of causality. For example, if we are talking about some abstract condition that is unlikely in reality, this is one type. And when it comes to something feasible, it's different.

Let's first take a look at all four types separately.

Conditional clauses of zero type (Zero Conditional) in English consist of two parts, where Present Simple is used in each segment. Below is a formula and an example of usage:

[If + Present Simple], + [Present Simple]

If it rains, the ground gets wet.

It is important to remember that in all conditional sentences, the order of the sentences is relatively unfixed. For this reason, when the order of sentences is changed, punctuation also changes, but the meaning always remains the same. In null conditionals, you can replace "if" with "when" because both expressions are used to convey a common meaning. By the way, sentences with "when" in English are clauses of time.

Note that the when clause in English can interchange the if clause only in the null type. For the first, second and third type of conditional sentence, this substitution will be a mistake.

The null condition is used to make statements about the real world and often refers to general truths such as scientific facts, for example. In these sentences, the truth is now or always true, and the situation is real and possible. The null condition is also often used to indicate instructions, using the imperative in the "main clause".

In a conditional sentence of the first type (First Conditional), the "if clause" uses the present simple, while the "main clause" uses the Future Simple.

[If + Present Simple], + [Future Simple]

The condition of the first kind refers to the present or future time, and implies a possible condition and a probable outcome. Such sentences are based on facts and are used to convey information about the real world and specific situations. We often use such sentences when we mean some kind of warning. In conditional sentences of the first type, the situation is always real, and temporary forms refer to both the present and the future.⁶⁶

Modal verbs can be used in the main clause instead of the future tense to express the degree of confidence, permission or recommendation regarding the result.

In a conditional clause of the second type (Second Conditional), the simple past tense is used in the subordinate clause of the condition, and the verb “would” and the infinitive without the particle “to” are used in the main clause. Below is a formula and an example of usage:

[If + Past Simple], + [Would + Bare Infinitive]

When we want to convey an unlikely or hypothetical idea and a possible outcome, we use the second type of condition. Such suggestions are not based on a real situation. Time refers to the present, but the situation is always hypothetical (which may or may not happen).

It is quite common to say "If I were" instead of "If I was" (subjunctive). Moreover, in conditional sentences of the second kind, modal verbs can also be used in the main clause instead of “would” to express a certain degree of certainty, permission, or recommendation regarding the result.

If I were around 20, I would definitely hitchhike all over the world.

The Third Conditional uses past tense forms, namely the past perfect and the verb “would” with a perfect infinitive (i.e. “have” and the verb in the third form, oh how).

[If + Past Perfect], + [Would + Have + V3]

⁶⁶ Uells G. D. Mashina vremeni; Chelovek-nevidimka; Voina mirov [The Time Machine; The Invisible Man; The War of the Worlds]. Moscow: AST, 2012. 607 p.

Type 3 condition refers to an impossible/unrealistic event in the past and its likely outcome, also in the past. Such "if" clauses are considered entirely hypothetical because it is too late for the condition or result to materialize. In conditional sentences of the third type there is always some shade of regret. The reality is opposite or contrary to what the sentence says.

As in the above sentences with "if" in the third form, it is also allowed to use modal verbs in the main clause instead of "would". This is due to the need to express a certain percentage of confidence in relation to the result.

Sometimes, the abbreviated 'd' form of the verbs 'would' and 'had' can be confusing, especially if you're unsure about the construction of the third type of conditional. For this reason, remember two rules:

The verb "would" is never used in an "if clause". If "'d" appears in the c if clause, it is an abbreviation for "had".

The verb "had" is never used before the verb "have". If "'d" comes before "have" with a pronoun, then it's an abbreviation for "would".

We have analyzed the zero, first, second and even third types of conditional sentences. Do you think that's it? Life would be easier if that were the case. But that's not all. There are mixed conditionals, where one half is taken from one type, and the other half from another. For example:

If you were more attentive, you would have passed maths yesterday.

If the consequence refers to the past, and the condition is not limited to the past, the subordinate clause (condition) uses the past tense (but not the Past Perfect), and the main clause uses the combination of the auxiliary verb would with the perfect infinitive

If we were soldiers, we wouldn't have done it like that.

Features of English punctuation: if the subordinate clause (condition) is before the main one, then a comma is placed between them, but if the main clause precedes the subordinate clause, then a comma is not needed.

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