

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

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INTRODUCTION

I expect that the readers will have a good chance to solve such a complicated structure through studying A Short Summary, A Large Number of Instructions, Explanations, Constructions, Proverbs given in detail.

A Short Summary

The action or situation expressed in the main clause of a sentence can be limited by one or more situations. The conditions are expressed by If-Clauses, Clauses with some certain conjunctions and inversions. Using the conditional clauses at the beginning of the Conditional sentences is more usual. Generally, there are two parts of the sentence one of which expresses what the condition is and the other shows the consequence depending on that condition.

Example: If you are a student, you will obey the school regulations.
/Condition/ /Consequence/

First off, I have translated the five kinds of conditional sentences into Turkish so that the readers can grasp the conditional constructions and discussions without having any difficulty.

1. Type 0, /Cause and Effect/

If I run fast, I get tired.

/Hızlı koşarsam yorulurum./

2. Type 1, /Probable Condition, or Real Condition in the present or Future

If I study hard I will pass the exam.

/Çok çalışırsam sınavı geçeceğim./

3. Type 2, /Improbable Condition or Unreal Condition in the present/ If I went there I would see you.

/Oraya gitsem sizi görürüm or Oraya gitseydim sizi görürdüm./

4. Type 3, /Imaginary Condition or Unreal Condition in the past/

If I had sailed with Columbus, I would have seen the New World first.

/Kristof Kolomb ile birlikte gemiyle seyahat etmiş olsaydım yeni dünyayı ilk kez görmüş olurdum (olacaktım).

5. Type 4 or Real Past

If you were at home, you watched the eight o'clock news on TV.

/Evdeyseniz sekiz haberlerini televizyonda seyrettiniz

If it rained, I did not know it.

Kısa Bir Özet

Bir cümlelerin ana cümlecisindeki durum veya hareket bir veya daha fazla koşulla sınırlandırılabilir. Koşullar, if-cümlecikleri, bilinen bağlaçlarla yapılan cümleciklerle ve devrik yapılarla ifade edilir. Koşul cümlelerinin başında koşul cümlecigini kullanmak daha olağandır. Genel olarak, cümlede iki bölüm vardır, bunlardan birisi koşulun ne olduğunu diğeri ise o koşula bağlı olan sonucu açıklar.

Örnek: If you are a student, you will obey the school regulations.

Condition-Şart

Consequence-Sonuç

Öğrenciyseniz,

okul kurallarına uyacaksınız.

/Condition/Şart

/Consequence/Sonuç

Okuyucular güçlükle karşılaşmaksızın koşul cümle kuruluşlarını ve irdelemeleri anlayabilsinler diye ilk önce beş çeşit şart cümlesini Türkçeye çevirdim.

KINDS OF THE CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

CAUSE AND EFFECT OR TYPE-O

Instruction: This kind of conditional is used to express automatic or habitual results or general truths.

Form:

Conditional Clause + MAIN CLAUSE
Simple Presen Tense Simple Present Tense

Example:

<u>If there is a shortage of any product,</u>	<u>prices of that product go up.</u>
Conditional Clause	Main Clause

<u>If you heat ice,</u>	<u>it melts.¹</u>
Condition	Consequence

TYPE-1 /Probable Condition or Real Condition in the present or future/

Instruction: This type of sentence implies that the action in the If-clause is quite probable. The meaning here is present or future but the verb in the If-clause is in a present tense.

Form: <u>The cat will scratch you</u>	<u>if you pull her tail.²</u>
Main Clause	Conditional Clause
/Consequence/	/Condition/

Examples: a) If the fog gets thicker, the plane may/might be diverted. /Possibility/

b) If your documents are in order you may / can leave at once. /Permission/

c) If it stops raining, we can go out. /Permission or ability/

d) If you want to lose weight, you should eat less bread. Advice/

e) If you want to lose weight, you had better eat less bread. /Advice/

f) If you want to lose weight, you must eat less bread. /Advice/

g) If you want to lose weight, eat less bread. /Command/

h) If you see Tom tomorrow, could you ask him to ring me? /Request/

Instruction: If-Clause may be formed in the present continuous tense, in this case it indicates a present action or a future arrangement.

Example: a) If you are waiting for a bus, you'd better join the queue. /Present action/

b) If you are preparing a book report tonight, I'll do the shopping instead of you tomorrow. (Future arrangement)

Instruction: If-clause may be formed in the Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous Tense, in this

Footnote: 1. B.D. Graver, Advanced English Practice, (London: Oxford University Press, 1973), p.88

2. A.J. Thomson and A.V. Martinet, A Practical English Grammar, (London: Oxford University Press, 1983), p.186

case there's not any contradiction between what is stated and what is implied; the verb forms used in both clauses have an agreement.³

Example: If you have finished answering the questions, I'll collect the examination papers and give answers to the questions.

If the students in this classroom have been studying English for four years, they can read the newspaper in English.

Instruction: Conditional clauses are related to reason clauses, but they discuss the consequence of something which may or may not be a real event.⁴

Example: a) I'll lend Peter the money because he needs it.

Reason Clause

b) I'll lend Peter the money if he needs it.

Conditional Clause

Sentence-a is different from sentence-b, because in sentence-a the speaker knows that he needs money, while the speaker of sentence-b doesn't know whether Peter needs money. That's why a sentence-like b is called open condition because the truth of what the sentence describes is open.

SPECIAL CASES / EXCEPTIONAL USES IN REAL CONDITIONS

1. Should sometimes means "ought to" (giving or asking for advice) with this meaning should can be used in If-clauses of Real conditions.

Example: If your parents disapprove of the plan, you should give it up.

2. When "will" is not an auxiliary for the future tense but a verb indicating willingness, it may occur in an if-clause.⁵

Example: If you will be so kind to help me, we can finish by six.

3. Will may occur in If-clauses when it means "to insist"

Example: If you will bet on horse-races, you mustn't complain if you lose your money.

If you insist on betting on horse-races, you mustn't complain if you lose your money.

Footnote: 3. Mehmet Turçin, English Translation, (İzmir: Bilgehan Basımevi, 1987,) p.187.

4. Geoffrey Leech, Jan Starvik, A Communicative Grammar of English (Singapore: Longman Group Limited, 1981), p.96.

5. A.S. Hornby, Guide to Patterns and Usage in English, (London: Oxford University Press, 1975), p.232.

4. Happen to is used to suggest that something happens by chance

Example: If you happen to pass the exam, will you please phone me? means if you pass the exam by chance, will you please phone me?

5. If is sometimes left out in conversational style:

Example: You touch me again, I'll kick your teeth in. This sentence means **If you touch me again, I'll kick your teeth in.**

6. A common alternative to using If-clauses is to join the sentences with **and**.

Example: Take my advice and your troubles will be over. This means

If you take my advice, your troubles will be over,

7. Two useful expressions which are used instead of complete clauses are **IF SO, IF NOT**.⁶

Example: Have you got an English course on next Thursday?

If so, let's go to school together. This means:

If you have got an English course on next Thursday, let's go to school together.

Is anybody feeling cold? If not, let's put the central heating off. **If not here means If anybody is not feeling cold.**

8. Would like, would care can be used in probable condition:

Example: **If you would like to come, I'll buy a bus ticket for you.**

If you would care to see some of our pictures, I'll show them to you.

9. "The introduction of **should** in the conditional clause has the effect of making it seem less likely that the condition will be fulfilled. It is possible to substitute **by any chance** for **should** without changing the meaning."⁷

Example: **If by any chance we miss the 10 o'clock train, we shan't get there till after lunch.**

IF WE MISS THE 10 O'CLOCK TRAIN, we can't get there till lunch time.

Instruction: The expression **IF ONLY** is used with the present tense to state something expected will happen:

Example: **If only they avoid smoking cigarettes, everything will change in his life.**

Unreal Conditions in the Present

/Type-2 or Improbable Conditions/

Footnote: 6. Michael Swan, Practical English Usage, (Hong Kong: Oxford University Press, 1980), p.310.
7. B.D.Graver, Advanced English Practice, (London: Oxford University Press, 1971), p.91.

Instruction: We use the unreal condition in the present when we wish to state conditions which cannot be fulfilled. The conditions do not happen, for this reason the results are not realised.

Conditional Sentence

If-Clause /Condition/

Main Clause/Consequence/

Example: a) If you were a sheep, the wolf would eat you.

"If you were a sheep" means you are not a sheep.

Sentence a) means As you are not a sheep, the wolf will not eat you.

b) I could buy that suit if I had enough cash on me.

Sentence b) means I can't buy that suit because I don't have enough money on me.

Sentence c) If I earned ten million a month perhaps I could afford to go on the summer holiday.

Sentence c means I don't earn ten million a month, perhaps I can't afford to go on the summer holiday. Or As I don't earn ten million liras a month, I can't afford to go on the summer holiday.

The Conditional Clause

The Main Clause

If I saw him, (Simple Past Tense

I should speak to him.

" " " " " "

I could " " "

" " " " " "

I would " " "

" " " " " "

I might " " "

Special Cases or Exceptional Uses

We generally convey the idea of something contrary to present fact using the past form of the main verb in the conditional clause. I have given some examples related to this instruction above. In addition, we often use the past tense after the verb wish and some certain expressions such as If only, It's time, It's about time, It's high time to convey the present unreality.

I wish + The conditional Tense indicates the Past Unreality

You wish or

He wishes + The Simple Past Tense indicates the present Unreality

If only + Simple Past tense

I'd rather

+++ Simple Past Tense

It's time

used for the present unreality

It's about time

It's high time

I wish you would read this book. This means please read this book.
The Conditional Tense

I wish it were Sunday today. It indicates the present unreality.
Simple Past Tense

If only you told me truth. This sentence implies, but you don't tell me truth.

It's time he found a good job with high salary.

It's about time we spoke English in class.

It's high time " " " " "

I'd much rather the teacher told us about the date of the written exam.

Instruction: Would is used in If-clauses when it is used as ordinary verb meaning "be willing to" or "be determined to" and not as auxiliary to express the future.

Example: I should be happy if you would lend me some money. The teacher in class-A would be much happier if the students would study harder. We can substitute the above expressions for 'Would'

If the students would study harder: if the students were willing to study harder.

WERE is used in the conditional sentence in the sense of subjunctive:

Example: If I were in your position, I would act differently.

Were to:

Were he to call you tomorrow, what would you tell him?

Clause - A -

Clause -A implies "If he called you tomorrow

Even if:

Even if you knew the truth, what could you do about it?

Instruction: We sometimes imply conditions in a relative clause:

a)

Example: A student who stopped studying hard would definitely flunk a test.

Sentence a- means If a student stopped studying hard, he would definitely flunk a test.

Instruction: In an informal language, we sometimes use the word "not" in if-clauses after expressions in order to suggest doubt or uncertainty:

Example: I wonder if we shouldn't ask the doctor to look at Mary.

Instruction: In informal spoken English the word "have" is used with if-clauses to express the past. Although this form is not used in the written language it is generally used by ignorant people:

Example: If I'd have passed the test, I would have had a long holiday. Clause-A

Clause-A means If I had passed the test

Instruction: IF can be used in the sense of ALTHOUGH in more formal English. We use it especially in the structure IF+Adjective without verb.

Example: The savings, if much higher than last month's, can be used for the benefits of the children without parents.

Instruction: The infinitive clause can be used conditionally:⁸

Example: You have to be strong to lift a table like that.

Clause-B

Cause B means if you are going to lift.

UNREAL CONDITIONS IN THE PAST

/Type-3 or Impossible Conditions/

Instruction: In the impossible condition, we know that the condition mentioned in the conditional clause is not performed, so the consequence stated in the main clause is completely imaginary and hypothetical.

Example: I would have earned more money if I had invested in that factory.

A

B

This sentence means I didn't invest in that factory and so I didn't earn more money.

Example: If the composition teacher had been correcting the examination papers carefully, he could have
2 found the mistakes.

This sentence means He wasn't correcting the examination papers carefully and so he couldn't find the mistakes.

Footnote: 8) Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum, A University Grammar of English, (London: Longman Group Limited, 1973) p. 325.

Conditional Sentence

The Conditional Clause

a) Past Perfect Tense or

b) Past Perfect Continuous Tense

If it had rained a lot we would have stayed at home

or

We would have stayed at home if it had rained a lot.

The main Clause

a) The Conditional Perfect

I would like to make the impossible conditions more intelligible giving an illustrative situation:

A pop singer bought a new fast car, She had a serious accident while she was driving on the highway. She lost a lot of blood but fortunately she was immediately taken to the nearest hospital. The surgeon on duty was able to operate her without waiting for anybody.

a) She would have died if she hadn't been taken to the nearest hospital.

b) She would have died if she had lost more blood.

c) She would have lost more blood if she hadn't been operated on time.

Sentence a means she didn't die because she was taken to the nearest hospital.

Sentence b means

She didn't die because she didn't lose more blood.

Sentence c means She didn't lose more blood because she was operated on time.

Mixed Types of Conditional Sentences

Instruction: When we use the consequence clause with a suitable time adverb, it may express a past condition with a present effect.

Example: If he had saved a lot of money, he wouldn't be poor now.

B. If I had taken an examination, I would be having a holiday now.

Sentence b means But I didn't take an examination and I am not having a holiday now.

TYPE 4 or REAL PAST

Conditional Sentence

The Conditional Clause

Past Tense Simple

or

Past Continuous Tense

The Main Clause

Past Tense Simple or

Past Continuous Tense

Instruction: We use the past tense or the past continuous tense on both sides of the same sentence to express a statement of general truth or custom which happened in the past.

Example: 1. Centuries ago, if a man had influenza he usually died.

Past Tense Simple

Past Tense Simple

2. If she woke up in the earlier hours of the morning, she certainly saw the sun rising.

Special Uses or Exceptional Uses or Special Difficulties

1. Would is used in the sense of willingness with conditional clause:

Example: If the students in class A would tell me what they want I would teach them.

a

In Sentence a the speaker states that the students are not willing to tell him.

2. Both would like and would care express want or wish.

Example: If you would like to come with me to the cinema, I'll wait for you.

a

Sentence a means If you want to come with me to the cinema, ...

If you would care to go out with your girl friend this evening, first you must finish reading the book you borrowed from the library.

3. If only with would can express regret in the present sense:

Example: If only he would study harder. This sentence means we are sad that he isn't willing to study harder.

4. If with Would have

Example: If I would have watched the eight o'clock news on TV, I'd have learnt the plane crash.

a

Sentence a means If I had watched the eight o'clock news on TV.

5. IF can precede a verbless clause:

Example: If in trouble, tell me please.

a

Sentence a means if you are in trouble.

6. IF is used with the expression 'happen to' to convey that something occurs by chance:

Example: If you happen to go to the post office, mail this letter for me please.

7. It is possible to omit 'IF' in conversation English:

Example: You listen to the English programmes on the radio, you will improve your English.

a

Sentence a implies If you listen to the English programmes

8. An imperative sentence with AND or OR ELSE may be used to replace IF-clause

Example: Study very hard, and you won't fail the exam.

a

Sentence a means If you study very hard, you won't fail the exam.

Stop smoking, or else you will get lung cancer.

a

Sentence a means If you don't stop smoking, you will get lung cancer.

Conjunctions Used in Conditional Sentences

1. Unless: a) If..... not

Unless we withdraw some money from a bank, we will be bankrupt.

b) Except if

Don't answer the questions unless I ask you.

2. But for: a) If it were not for

If it weren't his family's support, he would never be a deputy.

b) If it had not been for

But for the storm, we should have arrived much earlier.

a

Sentence a means If it had not been for the storm.

3. IF ONLY with Simple present Tense indicates Hope

Example: If only you graduate your school next year.

a

This sentence means we hope that you will graduate your school next year.

IF ONLY with Past Tense Simple indicates wish

Example: If only our clients had a television, they would watch the commercial

IF ONLY with past Perfect Tense conveys regret

Example: If only I had watched that film on TV. This sentence means I wish I had watched that film on TV, but I'm sorry I didn't watch it.

4. In CASE: a) Because it is / was possible that

Example: He has got two pencils in his pencil-case in case one of them is broken. This sentence means He has got two pencils because it is possible that one of them will be broken.

b) As the meaning of the main clause doesn't depend on the one in the In case -Clause, the in case-clause can be omitted, but the meaning doesn't change. In addition, the action in the main clause completely depends on the one in the If clause, that's why we cannot omit if-clause.

Example: I will buy a new suit in case I go to visit her.

a

I will buy a new suit if I go to visit her.

b

In sentence a Perhaps I will go to visit her, perhaps I will not, but I will already buy a new suit.

In sentence b Perhaps I will go to visit her, if I go, I will buy a new suit- If I don't go to visit her, I won't buy a new suit.

5. As long as: but only if

Example: You can borrow my dictionary as long as you use it carefully.
but only if you use it carefully.

6. Provided (that): but only if

Example: We're going to play football tomorrow provided that it isn't raining
but only if it isn't raining

7. Providing that: but only if

The children can stay here providing that they don't watch tv.

8. On Condition that: This expression states a condition to which a person must accept.

Example: I will give you a ballpoint on condition that you write with it.

9. IN CASE OF: If there is a

Example: In case of difficulty, ask your teacher.

Sentence a means If there is a difficulty,

10. Even if: a) I always like reading books even if I get tired.

This sentence means you wouldn't expect me to like reading books when I get tired, but I do.

b) It can replace IF.....AT LEAST

If he is too rich, at least he is honest.

11. Even though: Even if

He wouldn't lend me a dictionary even though I asked him.

12. WHETHER....OR:

Example: Whether I answer the questions or she answers them, the teacher won't change his mind.

a

Sentence a means If I answer the questions or even if she answers them.

13. Whatever, Whoever, wherever: The meaning of 'contrary to expectation' is present in these conjunctions.

Example: a) Whatever he says, everybody admires him.

Sentence a implies everybody admires him even if he says silly things.

Example: Wherever he goes, he makes friends.

14. OTHERWISE: a) If this doesn't happen

b) If this didn't happen

c) If this hadn't happened

Example: We must return to our country before 1994, otherwise everyone will forget us.

if

This sentence means 'if we don't return to our country by 1994, everybody will forget us.'

15. IF is used in the sense of Whenever, as, since or Because

Example: IF I promise, I keep it.

a

Sentence a means whenever I promise

IF you haven't done your homework, you won't be able to understand the lesson.

a

Sentence a implies As you say you haven't done your homework,.....

16. In the event of: If there is a

In the event of war, the young will go to the front.

a

Sentence a means If there is a war,.....

17. When (ever):

a) He can speak English fluently when he tries.

b) Whenever I call, it seems to be busy.

18. What if: What would you do or what would happen if.⁹

Footnote: 9) Manuel C.R. Dos Santos, In Tune Book-4, (Glenview, Illinois; Scott, Foresman Company, 1983) pp.30-32.

Example: What if she were older than you? It means 'What would you do if she were older than you?'

MAKING CONDITIONAL SENTENCES USING INVERSION

a) Had I known, I would have read it before.

a

Sentence a implies if I had known,

b) Were you to bring your book in your briefcase, you wouldn't lose it.

b

Sentence b implies If you were to bring your book in your briefcase.

c) Should I change my mind, I will get high marks in the exam.

c

Sentence c means If I should change my mind.....

PROVERBIAL EXPRESSIONS

If wishes are horses, beggars would ride.

Give him an inch and he'll take a mile.

Ask me no questions and I will tell you no lies.

Spare the rod and spoil the child.

CONCLUSION

I am sure that anyone who is interested in English will be able express his/her thoughts and ideas well enough after having studied the above explanations, instructions, types of conditional clauses, special uses, conjunctions introduced in conditional clauses, conditional clauses with inversion.

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