SATA TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS COLLEGE

ሳታ ቴክኖሎጂ እና ቢዝነስ ኮሌጅ

Remedial Program

Reading material from apportion of the content's

Conditional sentences

1. **Individually, study the questions below and try to learn how they are constructed.**
   a. What **will** you **ask** Derartu Tulu if you **meet** her in your university?
   b. What **would** you ask Zinedine Zidane if you **met** him somewhere in Europe?
   c. What **would** you **have done** if you had met Derartu Tulu immediately after she won the women's 10,000 meters race
2. What do the words written in bold in each question tell you? How many clauses do you think exist in each of the questions?
3. Read the following short note carefully and answer the questions written below it.

❖ A conditional sentence is a sentence contains two clauses, a clause of condition (dependent clause) beginning with if and a main clause or answer to if clause .There are four kinds of conditional sentences.

1. Probable condition

This type of conditional sentence is also named as a future –probable condition because it describes a simple situation which may or may not take place in the future .It is true in the present or future.

- Verb forms in the if clause
  - ✓ Present tense
  - ✓ Present perfect
  - ✓ Present continuous
- Verb forms in the main clause
  - ✓ Simple future tense
    - o Will or shall
    - o Present continuous tense
    - o Be + going to
  - ✓ Simple present verb
  - ✓ Modal auxiliary verbs (may, can, must, ought to, should, has/have to

A) We use simple preset tense verb in the if clause and simple future in the result clause when the sentence concerns a particular activity or situation in the future.

Example

- ✓ If you go, I am coming with you.
- ✓ If you have time, I will call you tomorrow.
- ✓ If the weather is nice tomorrow, we can go to the beach.
- ✓ If I have enough time ,I am going to visit my parents.

B) We can use either the simple present tense or the simple future in the result clause and simple preset tense in the if clause to express an established fact or general truth

Example

- ✓ If you heat water to 100% degree centigrade, it turns (will turn) into steam.
- ✓ If the temperature goes below 0 degree centigrade ,water freezes (will freeze)
- ✓ If you pour oil on the water, the oil floats (will float).

C) The verb in the result clause can be should or any expression of command, request or advice.

Example

- ✓ If she calls today, tell me at once.
- ✓ If you want to be healthy and strong ,you had better exercise regularly

D) The simple present tense with adverbs of frequency is used in the result clause to express a habitual activity or situation.

Example

- ✓ If he doesn't smoke cigarettes, he usually gets tired.
- ✓ If I don't eat breakfast, I always get hungry.

2. Unreal or contrary to fact condition

In this type of condition, the past tense of the verb is used in the if clause, and would, should, could or might is used in the main clause. It describes a situation is hypothetical or unreal.

Were is used for both singular and plural subjects .

Examples

- ✓ If I knew the answer, I would / could tell you.
  (In truth , I don't know the answer, so I can't tell you.
- ✓ If he were here right now, he would help us.
- ✓ If I won a lot of money, I would sail round the world.

Inverted word order in unreal condition

You can leave out if and write had or were first in the clause without changing the meaning of the original sentences

Examples

- ✓ If I had more time,I would go to the beach everyday.
- ✓ Had I more time, I would go to the beach every day.
- ✓ If I were in your position ,I wouldn't go with him.
- ✓ Were I in your position, I wouldn't go with him.

3. Impossible condition

Is called as past-unreal condition because it expresses unreal condition in the past. In a past unreal condition ,the past perfect tense is used in the if clause ,and would, should ,could, might (have + past participle) is used in the main clause.

Examples

- ✓ If I had had enough money, I would have gone with you.
- ✓ If he hadn't arrived late, he would have missed the interesting part of the lecture.
- ✓ If she had studied, she would (could, might)have passed the test.

Inversion in impossible condition

We can invert the above sentences by omitting if at the beginning of the sentences.The meaning in both sentences is the same.

Examples

- ✓ Had I had enough money, I would have gone with you.
- ✓ Had she studied, she would have passed the test.
- ✓ Had she come, she would have met my brother.

4. Words that can replace if

The following words /expressions can replace if

Whether or not, in case that, only if, even if, in the event that, unless, providing that

4.1. Adverbial clause of condition using unless

Unless has the same meaning as if-not

Examples

- ✓ I shall not go if you don't come with me.
- ✓ I shall not go unless you come with me.
- ✓ If you don't invite me ,I won't come.
- ✓ I won't come unless you invite me.

4.Zero Condition

We use the zero conditional to talk about permanent truths, such as scientific facts, and general habits.

Examples

If you heat water to 100°, it boils.

If you eat a lot, you put on weight.

If it doesn't rain for a long time, the earth gets very dry.

If we go out with friends, we normally go to a restaurant.

If I'm tired, I go to bed early.

Exercises

A) Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses

1. If you heat ice, it ---------- (turn) to water.
2. If Yared ---------- (study) hard, he will pass his examination.
3. You ---------- (spoil) it if you aren't careful.
4. If you ---------- (understand) this problem, show me how to do it.
5. ---------- (have) I enough money, I would help the poor.
6. That sounds like o good office .If I ----------(be) you, I ---------- (accept) it.
7. ---------- (be) millionaire, how would you spend your money.
8. He is busy now, but if he---------- (be+not) he would help us.
9. Had they invited me , I ----------(go) with them.
10. If she had told me the truth ,I ---------- (be) less angry.
11. You would have caught the train if you ---------- (leave) earlier.
12. There are at least two sides to every question of the day. If you take one side among some people, you ---------- (be) an objective viewer. If you---------- (refuse) to take any side, you are a fool. If you ---------- (manager) to take both sides and get away with it, you should enter politics.

B) Choose the best answer to complete the sentences

13. If I ---------- rich, I would buy a brand new car.
    a) Had been b)would have been c) am d) were
14. If Alemu ---------- her, she ----------him.
    a) Asks/would have married c) asked / will marry
    b) Had asked/would have married d) had asked/would marry
15. I will buy oranges if the fruit –seller ---------- soon.
    a) Asks b) ask c) asked d) had asked
16. I will take the job-------the pay is too low.
    a) If b) unless c) provided that d) in case
17. you study hard, your teacher can't help you much.
    a)unless b) if c) provided that d) when
18. If she ---------- enough money, she would have bought shoes.

    a) hasn't had b) hadn't had c) had had d) has had

19. If you had an appointment, you would see the director. This sentences tells us

    a) You have an appointment with the director

    b) You will see the director

    c) You will see director if you don't have an appointment with him.

    d) You don't have an appointment, so you will not see the director.

20. The following words /expressions can replace 'if'.
Write a sentence for each of them

a) Whether or not,
b) in case that,
c) only if,
d) even if,
e) in the event that,
f) unless,
g) providing that

21.Present perfect and present continuous tenses can be used in if clause of conditional sentence type-1 (probable condition).Write at least three sentences as example for each.

References

Aregaw, S.(2008).Anew Approach to English Grammar .A self – study Reference and Practice Book:3rd Revised Edition.

J.D Murthy.(2006). Contemporary English Grammar for Scholars and Students

. Published by book palace New Delhi

John E.(1999).Oxford Practice Grammar With Answers .Oxford University Press