

2º de Bachillerato - CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Type I : Real Conditional

a) If + Simple present + will

Both condition and result are very likely to happen

If John gets a good result, he will (he'll) study medicine.

If he fails his exams, he will go abroad.

b) If + Simple present + Imperative

This is a way of giving advice or instructions

If you feel tired, drink a cup of coffee.

If you can't wake up, buy an alarm clock.

If you see my wife, tell her I'll be late for dinner.

c) If + should + imperative

In this way we can suggest that something is unlikely to happen, or is not particularly probable.

If you should run into Peter Bellamy, tell him he owes me a letter.

d) If + Simple present + Simple present

This is a way of talking about laws of nature or things that always happen

If you heat ice, it melts.

If you fail your exams, you have to take them again in September.

e) If + Simple present + may

The result of the condition is just a possibility.

If we go to John's party, we may have a good time.

If we don't give them directions, they may get lost.

f) If + Simple present + can

If I haven't enough time today, I can wash your car tomorrow.

We use this form when we make present decisions about future ability. Otherwise we use *will be able to*.

If you lose her telephone number, you won't be able to contact her later.

Type II: Hypothetical conditional

It is called so because the condition is contrary to the facts or because it is very improbable. We use this conditional to imagine what would it be like if things were different.

a) If + Simple past + would

If I were the president, I would end unemployment.

If I won the lottery, I would buy a Ferrari.

If I were you, I'd start packing now.

b) If + Simple past + might

The result of the condition would be just a possibility.

If you drove drunk, you might have an accident.

If he weren't so selfish, he might be happier.

c) If + Simple past + could (the meaning of *could* here is *would be able to*).

If I had another £500, I could buy a car.

d) If + were to + would

If war were to break out, I would emigrate to Mars.

(This makes a future possibility sound less probable).

Type III: Impossible conditional

The condition didn't happen in the past, and so the result didn't happen either. It is used for speculating about past events.

a) If + Past perfect + Perfect conditional

If he had studied, he would have passed.

b) If + Past perfect + might have

If someone had heard the S.O.S., their lives might have been saved

c) If + Past perfect + could have (the meaning is *could have been able to*).

If my parent's hadn't been poor, I could have gone to university

Unless

Very often, *unless* can be used instead of *if not*. The meaning of **unless** is an exclusive one (*only if... not / except on condition that...*) and it is normally used in sentences that say 'A will happen if it is not stopped by B'.

Unless I find a good excuse (if I don't find a good excuse), my father will punish me.

I'll be back tomorrow unless there's a plane strike (if

there isn't a plane strike).
Let's have dinner out unless you're too tired (if you aren't too tired).

However, **unless** cannot be used in sentences that say 'A will result from B not happening.' Compare:

I will be glad if she doesn't come this evening.

~~**I will be glad unless she comes this evening.*~~

I will be surprised if she doesn't have an accident.

~~**I will be surprised unless she has an accident.*~~

Notice

The main clause can come first and the if clause second, especially in questions.

What will he do if he fails his exams?

Inversion in conditional sentences

In literary style, we can sometimes omit **if** changing the word order subject / auxiliary. This has nothing to do, of course, with an interrogative sentence.

If you should run into Peter Bellamy, tell him he owes me a letter. = Should you run into Peter Bellamy...

If she were my daughter, I would send her to a boarding school. = Were she my daughter...

If war were to break out, I would emigrate to Mars. = Were war to break out...

If he had studied, he would have passed. = Had he studied...

4. Other words with conditional meaning

Many words and expressions can be used with a meaning similar to if, (and with similar verb forms). Some of the commonest are **provided, providing, supposing, as long as, on condition that**.

Supposing you fell in love with your boss, what would you do?

You can borrow my bike provided/providing you bring it back.

I'll give you the day off on condition that you work on Saturday morning.

You are welcome to stay with us, as long as you share the rent.

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES: EXERCISES

1) Change these conditional sentences type I into type II and type III.

- 1.- If you give me some glue, I will stick the pieces together.
- 2.- I will get you a newspaper if I can find one.
- 3.- He will be a good president if he is elected.
- 4.- There will be more people killed if we don't stop that war.
- 5.- If you hurry, you'll catch your train.
- 6.- If you are a good boy, I will take you to the cinema.

2) Rephrase the following sentences into conditionals (types I, II or III) like in the example:

e.g. You were not at home yesterday. Your little brother had an accident (type III) = If you had been at home yesterday, your little brother wouldn't have had an accident.

- 1.- I forgot the car keys at home. I was late for work. (t. III)
- 2.- She hasn't got a university degree. She'd like to have a better job. (t. II)
- 3.- I spent all my money on cigarettes. I need a dictionary. (t. III)
- 4.- You might see my sister. I need to tell her that our father's gone on a business trip. (t. I, use SHOULD)
- 5.- Susan is going to fail almost every subject this year. She wants to go to university. (t. I)
- 6.- He's not handsome. He'd like to have a beautiful girlfriend. (type II, use MIGHT in the main clause)
- 7.- The prison warder was having lunch. The prisoners escaped. (t. III)
- 8.- I need a typewriter. It costs a lot of money. (t. I)
- 9.- I don't have enough time. I like reading very much. (t. II)
- 10.- I don't like cooking. I always eat in restaurants. (t. II)

3) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE I: basic forms Write conditional sentences type I, using the given facts in your conditional clause, and adding a suitable completion,

*e.g. He's thinking of going to England.
If he goes to England, he will have to learn English.*

- 1.- It looks as if those shoes in the window are my size.
- 2.- Don't drop that vase.
- 3.- It looks like being fine tomorrow.
- 4.- My father has suggested that I change my job.
- 5.- It seems that we'll be late for the theatre.
- 6.- Don't lose my library book!
- 7.- You may meet some friends of mine in London.
- 8.- He expects to pass his exams.
- 9.- They're hoping it will be a baby boy.

10.- I anticipate getting a rise in salary next year.

4) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE I: present + present

Answer these questions like in the example:

What happens if you heat ice?

If you heat ice, it melts.

- 1.- What happens if flowers don't get any water?
- 2.- What must a motorist do if the traffic lights are red?
- 3.- What materials do you need if you want to write a letter? (you = one)
- 4.- What do you like to drink if you are thirsty? (you = you)
- 5.- Who do businessmen go to see if they want to borrow money?
- 6.- What do you expect a teacher to do if you make a mistake?
- 7.- What must one have if one wants to visit a foreign country?
- 8.- Who do people go to see if they feel ill?
- 9.- What happens if there is a power failure?
- 10.- How do people dress in your country if they work in an office?

5) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE II:

Answer the questions with conditional statements of Type II.

- 1.- What cities or other places of interest would you visit if you went to America?
- 2.- What would you do (or not do) if you could live your life over again?
- 3.- What would you say or do if someone called you a fool?
- 4.- If a visitor came to your town, what places would you advise him to see?
- 5.- What famous person would you like to meet if you had the chance?
- 6.- What country would you choose if you decided to live abroad?
- 7.- What changes would you make in your house, assuming you had the money?
- 8.- What would you do if you saw a house on fire?
- 9.- What would you do if you had something stolen?
- 10.- Which books or records would you take with you if you went to live on a desert island?

6) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE II.

Write conditional sentences type III based on the given facts.

We don't have any wood, so we can't light a fire.

If we had some wood, we could light a fire.

- 1.- Since she doesn't love him, she won't marry him.
- 2.- Our teacher explains things clearly, so we understand his lessons.
- 3.- As I haven't a watch, I can't tell you the time.
- 4.- Britain doesn't export enough, so she has a

constant balance of payments problem.

5.- Since I know the meaning of the word, I don't have to look it up.

6.- This exercise is easy, so everyone will get the correct answers.

7.- I know the answer so I can tell you. 8.- We haven't any matches so we can't light the fire.

7) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE III.

Complete the sentences, following one of the patterns of conditional sentences type III.

- 1.- I would have enjoyed the party much more if...
- 2.- It ... if the sea hadn't been so rough.
- 3.- Would you have been able to come next Tuesday if...?
- 4.- If you had taken my advice...
- 5.- If I had realized that you were really serious in what you said,...
- 6.- If it hadn't been for the fact that his father has influence...
- 7.- If he were to have told me the truth in the first place...
- 8.- Would you have lent him the money if...?
- 9.- What difference would it have made, even if...?
- 10.- If the fire brigade had arrived but a quarter of an hour earlier,...
- 11.- I'm sure she wouldn't have married him if...
- 12.- If..., we would have left without them.

8) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES TYPE III

Change the following sentences into conditionals type III like in the example:

He didn't know his wife was going to be sitting at the next table, and so he took his secretary to the Golden Tower restaurant =

If he had known his wife was going to be sitting at the next table, he wouldn't have taken his secretary to the Golden Tower restaurant.

- 1.- Bob didn't hear about it in time, and so he didn't join Oliver's expedition to Afghanistan.
- 2.- She changed her nationality on marriage, and so he didn't need to have her visa extended.
- 3.- The Hotchkisses ran out of marmalade, and so they had apricot jam this morning.
- 4.- I didn't know Oswald was going to be present, and so I went there.
- 5.- Guy didn't tell Hazel about the girl he met at the party, and so Hazel wasn't annoyed.
- 6.- I had nothing better to do, and so I turned on the television to watch this infantile rubbish.
- 7.- Wilfred was suddenly taken ill, and so he and his family didn't go on holiday to Greece.
- 8.- Miranda didn't see that the customer was going out without paying, and so she didn't rush out and stop her.
- 9.- Slasher Higgins was carrying a gun when they caught him, and so he didn't get a shorter sentence.

- 10.- Nobody told me it was your birthday, and so I asked you to clean out the larder.
 11.- Percy was playing the fool all day, and so we didn't get more work done.
 12.- Mr Gibson didn't marry the girl he loved thirty years ago, and so he wasn't a happier man.
 13.- There was no chance of rescuing survivors, and so they called off the search.
 14.- He started running a bath and then forgot about it, and so the water overflowed, and we had all this trouble and expense. 15.- He listened at the door of the boardroom, and in that way he learned that he was going to lose his job.

9) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES: MIXED TYPES.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tenses:

- 1.- If you (find) a skeleton in the cellar don't mention it to anyone.
 2.- If you pass your examination we (have) a celebration. 3.- What (happen) if I press this button?
 4.- I should have voted for her if I (have) a vote then.
 5.- If you go to Paris where you (stay)?
 6.- If someone offered to buy you one of those rings, which you (choose)?
 7.- The flight may be cancelled if the fog (get) thicker.
 8.- If the milkman (come) tell him to leave two pints.
 9.- Someone (sit) on your glasses if you leave them there. 10.- You would play better bridge if you (not talk) so much. 11.- What I (do) if I hear the burglar alarm?
 12.- If you (read) the instructions carefully you wouldn't have answered the wrong question.
 13.- I could repair the roof myself if I (have) a long ladder. 14.- Unless the turn the radio off I (go) mad.
 15.- If you were made redundant what you (do)?
 16.- We'll have a long way to walk if we (run) out of petrol here.
 17.- If you shake that bottle of port it (not be) fit to drink.
 18.- I'll probably get lost unless he (come) with me.
 19.- You (not have) so many accidents if you drove more slowly.
 20.- If you (wear) a false beard nobody would have recognized you.
 21.- If she (leave) the fish there the cat will get it
 22.- Unless they leave a lamp beside that hole in the road somebody (fall) into it.
 23.- You'll get pneumonia if you (not change) your wet clothes.
 24.- If I had known that you couldn't eat octopus I (not buy) it.
 25.- If they (hang) that picture lower people would be able to see it.
 26.- She (be able) to walk faster if her shoes hadn't such high heels.
 27.- I (bring) you some beer if I had known that you

- were thirsty.
 28.- If you had touched that electric cable you (be) electrocuted.
 29.- If the story hadn't been true the newspaper (not print) it.
 30.- I (not buy) things on the instalment system if I were you.
 31.- Dial 999 if you (want) Police, Ambulance, or Fire Brigade,
 32.- You (not be) any use to me unless you learn to type. 33.- If anyone attacked me, my dog (jump) at his throat. 34.- If he were in he (answer) the phone.
 35.- The ship would have run aground if the pilot (make) one mistake.
 36.- I shouldn't have taken your umbrella if I (know) that it was the only one you had.

10) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES: mixed types.

Finish these sentences, taking care to use correct tenses.

- 1.- If he had taken my advice...
 2.- If you ate less...
 3.- We'll send for the doctor if...
 4.- If she practised more...
 5.- If there isn't enough wine in that bottle...
 6.- If you had checked the petrol before we started...
 7.- This clock wouldn't have run down if...
 8.- Try on the blue one if...
 9.- If these gates are locked...
 10.- If we leave before breakfast...
 11.- If the river rises any higher...
 12.- Her life might have been saved if...
 13.- If the volcano starts erupting...
 14.- The glass would look better if...
 15.- Unless it is a nice day...
 16.- If you don't put enough stamps on the letter, the person who gets it...
 17.- He would lend it to you if...
 18.- Unless this hotel gets another cook...
 19.- If the storm becomes worse...
 20.- If your uncle sees you...
 21.- If you tried to climb it without a guide...
 22.- If you didn't shake the camera so much, your photographs...
 23.- I'd have brought my coat...
 24.- If you don't like the picture...
 25.- He would have given her diamonds...
 26.- If you had asked his permission...
 27.- If the fire had been noticed earlier...
 28.- If you had any sense...
 29.- You would have been angry if...
 30.- If he had put the flowers into water at once...
 31.- I should have ordered more coal if...
 32.- If you leave the gate open...

- 33.- You will have to go to the dentist if...
- 34.- He would have been drowned if...
- 35.- If I'd had a car...
- 36.- If Tom rings while I'm out...

11) CONDITIONAL SENTENCES: inversion

Rewrite these sentences as in the examples.

1 If you should need my help again, just give me a ring. = Should you need my help again, just give me a ring.

2 Were the Government to go back on this election pledge, there would be a revolt among back-benchers.

=

If the Government were to go back...

3 Had I known you were ill, I would have visited you. = If I had known you were ill,...

- 1.- If you should need to consult me again, you can contact me at this number.
- 2.- The hospital can switch to an emergency generator if the need should arise.
- 3.- If you should be late once again, you'll lose your job.
- 4.- If it were not for the fact that his father is on the board of directors, he would never have got the job.
- 5.- If such a merger were ever to be proposed, it would undoubtedly be referred to the Monopolies Commission.
- 6.- If it were not for the expense involved, I would go there by air.
- 7.- If it hadn't been for your laziness, you could have finished the work by now.
- 8.- If he had taken a little more time to think, he might have acted more sensibly.
- 9.- If the attempted assassination had succeeded, there would almost certainly have been civil and political chaos.
- 10.- If the driver of the train hadn't reacted so quickly, the accident would have been much worse.