

## Advanced Morphology and Syntax in EPS / EBL

### \*\* If-Clauses \*\*

Sentences with *if* are used to express possibilities.

- ✧ **Zero Conditional:** sometimes sentences with *if* express certainty rather than possibility. The **Zero Conditional** is used to talk about something that is **ALWAYS TRUE**, or that was always true in the past:

If Clause	Main Clause
If + simple present/simple past	simple present/simple past
e.g. If you <b>mix</b> blue and red, you <b>get</b> purple. If I <b>asked</b> her to come with us, she always <b>said</b> no.	

- ✧ **First Conditional:** the **First Conditional** is used to talk about the consequences of a **POSSIBLE** action:

If Clause	Main Clause
If + simple present	future tense (will + infinitive)
e.g. If I <b>write</b> my essay this afternoon, I <b>will have</b> time to go out tonight.	

- ✧ **Second Conditional:** the **Second Conditional** is used to talk about the consequences of a **HYPOTHETICAL** action:

If Clause	Main Clause
If + simple past	conditional tense (would/could/should/might + infinitive)
e.g. If I <b>wrote</b> my essay this afternoon, I <b>would have</b> time to go out tonight.	

✧ **Third Conditional:** the **Third Conditional** is used to talk about the possible consequences of an **IMPOSSIBLE** action, i.e. **THAT DID NOT HAPPEN:**

If Clause	Main Clause
If + past perfect	conditional perfect tense (would/could/should/might + have + past participle)
e.g. If I <b>had written</b> my essay this afternoon, I <b>would have had</b> time to go out tonight.	

\* \* \* \* \*

✓ **Put the verb into the correct form – zero, first, second or third conditional:**

1. If she had more experience, we ..... (to offer) her that job as a sales manager.
2. If they ..... (to offer) us a unit price of \$ 22, we will accept to buy new stationery.
3. If I had £ 10 million, I ..... (to invest) in cancer research.
4. If we ..... (to hire) a factoring agency, we would recover our debts more easily.
5. If Liz passes her exam, her father ..... (to give) her a present.
6. If copper oxidizes, it ..... (to become) green.
7. If I gave your firm order in advance for one year, ..... (to reduce) the price by 10%?
8. If you ..... (to give) me a special price, I'll put it in a bigger order.
9. If the sale of alcohol was banned in Europe, there ..... (to be) fewer road accidents.
10. If we ..... (to ensure) free maintenance, would you buy a new photocopier from us?

11. How long ..... (to hold) your prices, if we order today?
12. If I ..... (to do) an MBA, I'll improve my job prospects.
13. If you ..... (not/ to want) to go out tonight, we can stay at home.

© 2018 Rosati F. and F. Vaccarelli

## MIXED CONDITIONALS

Not all sentences containing *if* follow the same patterns as those presented on the page above. The sequence of tenses depends on the meaning that has to be conveyed:

- If Robert **wasn't** so lazy, he **could have been** promoted. (He is permanently lazy which explains why he failed to get promotion).
- I'll **lend** you 1,000 euros if it'll **help** you to set up your business. (There is nothing conditional about this sentence; the advantage is the result of the gift of money. Here *if* means *if it is true that*).
- We **would be** grateful if you **would send** us your payment made out to the order of 'InfoMart'. (This is a polite request).

## EXERCISE ON MIXED CONDITIONALS

✓ Read the following sentences and answer the questions about each one:

1. If he hadn't bought a second home in the country, he wouldn't be so short of money now.  
a) Did he buy a second home?      b) Is he short of money?
2. If he had bought a second home in the country, he would be short of money now.  
a) Did he buy a second home?      b) Is he short of money?
3. If she weren't so busy, she would have given you a hand.  
a) Is she busy?                      b) Did she help?
4. If she had been busy, she wouldn't have given you a hand.  
a) Was she busy?                      b) Did she help?