Unit 7 Conditional Sentences (Type 0-1)

Usage

When we want to describe a situation that depends on something else, we can use a conditional. A conditional has two parts — an *if*-clause and a main clause. We talk about the situation or action in the *if*-clause and the result in the main clause.

<If you finish your homework,> [you can go out and play.]
<if-clause>
[main clause]

The *if*-clause can come before the main clause or after it. When we put the *if*-clause before the main clause, we use a comma to separate the clauses.

If I eat too much, I feel sleepy. I feel sleepy if I eat too much.

Zero conditional / Conditional Type 0

Usage

We use Type 0 conditional to talk about

1. general truths

If we eat contaminated food, we become ill. If we don't feel well, we see a doctor.

2. scientific facts

If we heat water to 100°C, it boils.

3. imperatives

If you don't feel well, see a doctor.

- Form

<i>if</i> -clause	main clause (result clause)	
present simple	present simple	

e.g. If you don't water plants, they die.

Notes**

We can also use *when* instead of *if* in Type 0 conditionals, particularly when we talk about things that are generally true or habitually happen.

When there is a typhoon, most people stay at home.

Sam's face **turns** red **when** he **gets** very angry.

Ochenever there is a typhoon, most people stay at home.

First conditional / Conditional Type 1

Usage

We use Type 1 conditional to talk about things which <u>may happen now or in the future</u>. If it rains tomorrow morning, we will cancel the picnic.

If you are hungry now, I will make you some pancakes.

- Form

<i>if</i> -clause	main clause (result clause)	
present simple	will + bare infinitive	

e.g. If you want to read the book, I will lend it to you.

Notes**

- We use can/may in the main clause instead of will for permission.
 If you need me, you can call me.
 You may go if there is no other business to announce or discuss.
- ♦ We use may/might/could for possibility.
 If the No.3 typhoon signal is hoisted tomorrow morning, the ferry services may/might/could be suspended.
- ♦ We use can/could for ability.
 If you work harder, you can/could get level 4 or 5 in English.
- ♦ We can use the present perfect or present continuous in the *if*-clause.
 If it <u>has stopped</u> raining, we can go out now.
 If you <u>are having</u> meal now, I'll call you again later.
- ♦ We can use should in the if-clause if we are less sure about a possibility.
 I don't think Cheryl is going to the party this evening,
 but if I should see her, I'll give her a message.

When we use *should*, we can omit *if* and begin the clause with *should*. **Should** I **see** her at the party, I'll give her your message.

♦ We can use would in the if-clause to make a request.

If you would wait a minute, I'll have the present wrapped for you. (= if you wouldn't mind waiting/if you could wait)

♦ We use present simple tense in the *if*-clause when talking about the future.
If you **go** to the book fair tomorrow, you may see the novelist.
She will be there promoting her new book.

Exercise 1

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1.	If you talk loudly, you(wake up) the baby.					
2.	She(feel) unhappy if she does not get 90 in a test.					
3.	If plants get enough water and sunshine, they(grow) well.					
4.	You(win) the competition if you practise more.					
5.	. If you do not listen to him, he(be) very angry.					
6.	Things(catch) fire more easily if the weather is dry.					
7.	Katherine often(talk) quickly if she feels nervous.					
8.	If you go to a travel agent, you(find) all the information you need.					
9.	If you have a fever, you(stay) in bed.					
10.	10. Ask him to wait if he(arrive) before I return.					
11.	11. I(go) for a walk after lunch if the weather is good.					
12.	12. I don't think that I am coming to the party, but if I change my mind, I					
	(tell) you.					
13.	If we put the water into the freezer, it(turn) into ice.					
14.	14. If he(have) a long holiday, he will fly to Paris.					

Summary Table

Туре	Usage	If-clause	Main/Result clause
Type 0	Scientific factsGeneral truthsImperativesHabitual actions	Simple present tense If you heat ice,	Simple present tense it melts
Type 1	Possibly happen now or in the future	1. If I am late, 2. If you need me, 3. If you need help,	will can + bare infinitive may I will call you. you can call me. You may ask her.