

CONDITIONAL CLAUSES: [IF-CLAUSE, MAIN CLAUSE or MAIN CLAUSE IF-CLAUSE]

A) ZERO:

• Grammar: IF-C [PRESENT SIMPLE], M-C [PRESENT SIMPLE]

• Usage: To describe something which is generally true. (Whenever, every time, when)

"If you heat plastic, it melts" (Every time you heat.....)

"If I stay out late, I always get a taxi home."

B) REAL (TYPE 1):

Grammar: IF-C [PRESENT S., C, P.], M-C [FUTURE, CAN, MAY, MIGHT, SHOULD + INF, IMPERAT.]

• Usage: The condition is likely to happen in the present or future.

"If I see Andrew, I will give him your message." (I'm likely to see him)

C) UNREAL/IMPROBABLE (TYPE 2):

• Grammar: IF-C [PAST S., C], M-C [WOULD, COULD, MIGHT + INF]

• **Usage:** a) To talk about a <u>present situation</u> that is impossible; the condition can't be fulfilled or it is improbable.

"If my parents were alive, they would be here now." (They are dead so they can't)

"If I were you, I wouldn't do it." [ADVICE]

(AFTER "IF" WE CAN USE "WERE" FOR ALL PERSONS INSTEAD OF "WAS")

b) To talk about a future event. The condition is unlikely to happen.

"If she changed her job, she would be much happier" (the speaker doesn't expect her to change her job. It is unlikely that the condition will be fulfilled.)

D) IMPOSSIBLE:

Grammar: IF-C [PAST PERFECT S., C.], M-C [WOULD, COULD, MIGHT + HAVE+ PAST PART.]

Usage: To talk about something in the past. (The past can't be changed!!) [CRITICISMS, REGRETS]

"If she had worked harder, she wouldn't have failed." (She didn't work hard enough!)

***WORDS OTHER THAN "IF":

• Unless= if + negative [EMPHASIS] I won't come unless you invite me.

• As long as / on condition (that) = "only if" [STRONGER]

I'll lend you £10 provided you give them back to me before the weekend.

• Whenever= every time, when

• In case = "if by chance" [PRECAUTION].

Can you see any difference? a) I'll take my umbrella **if** it rains.

b) I'll take my umbrella in case it rains