

# Language and Grammar

## Conditional Sentences

### INFO BOX I If-Sentences

There are three types of “if” or conditional sentences:

#### Type I (*likely*)

**Example:** If I find time, I'll call.

(= At the moment I find no time, but I will probably call later.)

#### Type II (*possible but unlikely*)

**Example:** If I found time, I would call.

(= I don't expect to find time to call but it is theoretically possible.)

#### Type III (*merely speculative*)

**Example:** If I had found time, I would have called.

(= I didn't find time and now it's too late to do more than speculate.)

#### A mix of type II and III

**Example:** If they hadn't married so young, they would be happy now.

### INFO BOX II Conditional sentences (*provided – when – unless – in case*)

Students of English sometimes do not recognize conditional sentences as such because the condition is not ushered by “if” but by one of the following conjunctions or phrases.

**Provided/providing** = *if and only if*

**Example:** I will only sign the contract, provided you are willing to pay half the costs.

**When** = *at the time at which*

**Example:** he will call ma when the package arrives.

**Unless** = *if ... not / except in the case that*

**Example:** Unless we are told otherwise, I think we should just stick to the rules as stated.

**In case** = *for fear that / because ... perhaps*

**Example:** Here's my number in case you need to reach me in a hurry.

### **Tasks:**

#### **a) Put the verbs in the following conditional sentences in their correct form.**

- (1) Where \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ **(be)** today if computers hadn't been invented?
- (2) If he \_\_\_\_\_ **(work)** just a bit harder, he would now be graduating with the rest of the class.
- (3) If I had known then what I know now, I \_\_\_\_\_ **(buy)** shares in one of the new start-up companies and be a rich man/woman.
- (4) I \_\_\_\_\_ **(ask)** him, if I were you.
- (5) He wouldn't have shut down the system unless he \_\_\_\_\_ **(have)** a good reason.
- (6) AI \_\_\_\_\_ **(be)** a big help but also a big threat if we \_\_\_\_\_ **(be able)** to limit its usage.
- (7) He \_\_\_\_\_ **(be)** a lot richer if he had discovered the gold first.
- (8) If you \_\_\_\_\_ (use) Google, you \_\_\_\_\_ (find) the information more quickly.

#### **b) Complete the conditional sentences below by speculating about the possible consequences of the conditions described.**

- (1) If I hadn't had to do this presentation, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(complete the project on time)
- (2) Provided I receive payment by Monday, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(drop all charges)
- (3) Unless you install a firewall, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(trouble with hackers)
- (4) \_\_\_\_\_ if he talked less and did more work.  
(be better off)

#### **c) Complete the conditional sentences below with the most suitable conjunction: if, in case, provided, unless, on condition that**

- (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of emergency call the following number.
- (2) \_\_\_\_\_ we don't hear from you by Sunday, I'm afraid the deal is off.
- (3) He'll supply the capital for the joint venture \_\_\_\_\_ we all agree to his conditions.
- (4) They are going to miss their plane \_\_\_\_\_ they get moving soon.