

Time Clauses

When I see you tomorrow, I will tell you everything.

Refers to the future. This is going to happen for 100%, the question is only the time – when.

Other time conjunctions: e.g. while, as soon as, after, before, until

If we speak about conditionals, there are always two important things we have to focus on.

- 1) Which time the sentence refers to
- 2) Is it real or unreal? Do we believe that the condition can come true or not?

The if-clause is a condition which conditions the main clause. It means that the condition must come true and then the activity, action in the main clause happens as well.

There are fixed patterns we have to follow when building a conditional.

1st Conditional

If I see you tomorrow, I will tell you everything.

Pattern: IF + PRESENT, WILL.

Time: Future / Present

Real

I believe this condition will come true (real), we can say for 80%, I only keep these 20% for the possibility that it will not.

2nd Conditional

If I saw you tomorrow, I would tell you.

Pattern: IF + PAST, WOULD.

Time: Present / Future

Unreal / Hypothetical

I believe this condition will not come true (unreal), we can say for 80%, I only keep these 20% for the possibility that it will.

Or we can have a hypothetical situation (mainly refers to present), I am thinking of something which is the opposite to reality.

If I was the president, I would change a lot of laws. (I am not the president)

If I was taller, I would play basketball. (I am not tall, therefore I do not play basketball)

Zero Conditional

If you heat ice, it melts.

If I fly, I am scared.

Pattern: IF + PRESENT, PRESENT.

Time: Present

Real – always true, a fact, the law of nature

This is not a real condition. This is a fact, this happens all the time when the condition comes true. It does not have to be only the nature, it can be my personal facts.