

## 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.*

### 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.*

### 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)*

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Conditional

If I had seen you yesterday, I would have told you.

Pattern: IF + PAST PERFECT, WOULD + PERFECT INFINITIVE

Time: Past

Unreal / Hypothetical

*This a condition in the past which influenced something else in the past. I cannot change the past, so I am only hypothetically thinking what would have been different if this condition had come true.*

*We express regret, or criticism.*

## Mixed Conditionals

Unreal – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>

*In a mixed condition we mix two different conditionals, the most common mixture is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> as they are both unreal.*

*More common situation is that something in the past (the condition) influenced something now.*

*Therefore, we mix the condition in the past (3<sup>rd</sup>) and result in the present (2<sup>nd</sup>)*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Conditional

If I saw you tomorrow, I would tell you.

Time: Present / Future

UNREAL

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Conditional

If I had seen you yesterday, I would have told you.

Time: Past

UNREAL

If I **had gone** to bed earlier yesterday, I **wouldn't be** so tired now.

*The reality is: I didn't go to bed early yesterday, so I am tired now.*

*This is me expressing regret about something I did in the past – went to bed late – and now there is a result I don't like – I am tired.*

*A bit less common situation is the condition in the present which influenced something which happened in the past.*

*The condition is usually a characteristics, something that is true all the time, general truth or fact.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Conditional

If I saw you tomorrow, I would tell you.

Time: Present / Future

UNREAL

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Conditional

If I had seen you yesterday, I would have told you.

Time: Past

UNREAL

If he **wasn't** such a fast driver, **he wouldn't have** had the accident yesterday.

*He is a fast driver, he always drives fast, it is a fact. Yesterday he had an accident because he was, as usual, driving fast.*

If he **was** a generous person, **he would have lent** you the money yesterday.

He is not a generous person. That is his characteristics. It is always true. You asked him yesterday to lend you some money, and because he is not generous, he didn't lend you anything.