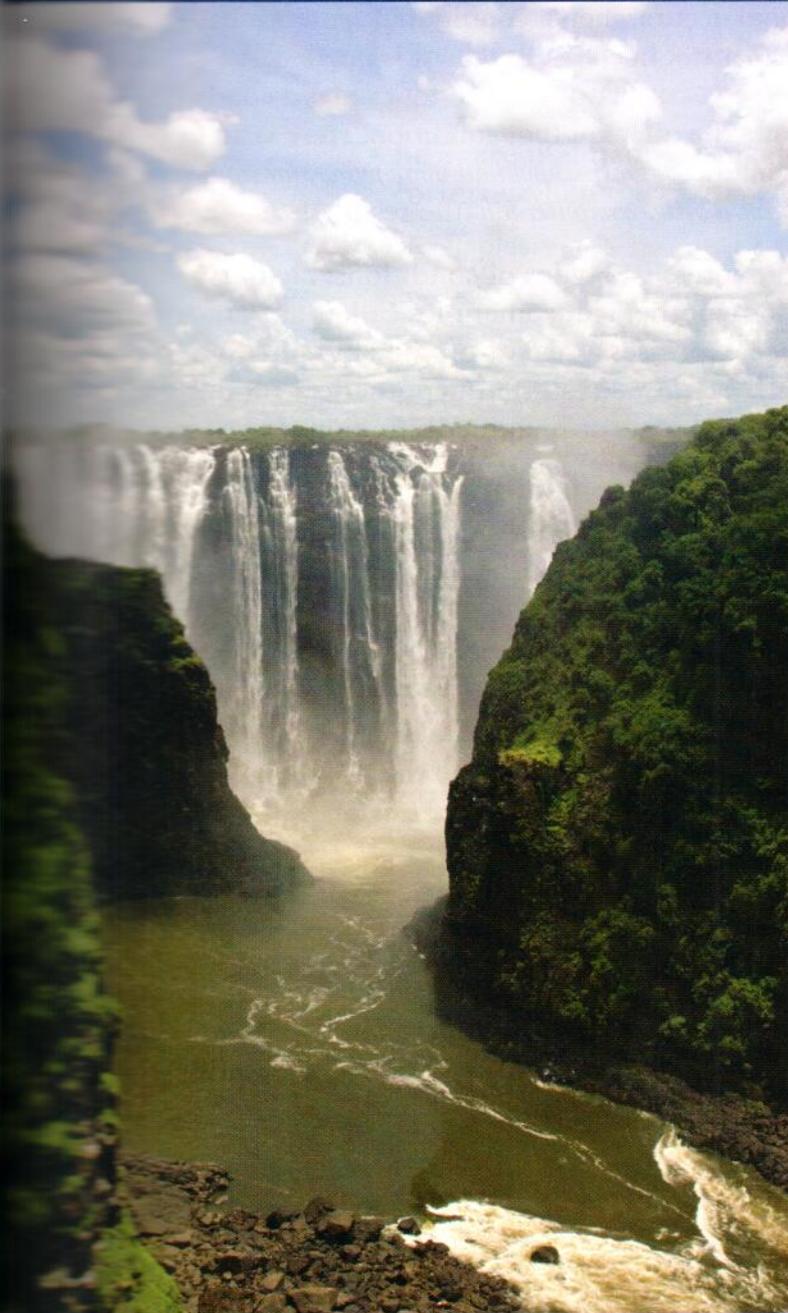


Unit 4

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES



If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? Why would you like to go there?

GOALS

- Learn the importance of mastering conditional sentences
- Understand four problems writers commonly encounter with conditional sentences
- Form and use the conditional correctly in exercises and writing assignments

LEARN WHAT THE ERROR IS

Errors with Conditional Sentences

An error with the conditional occurs when a conditional sentence has been incorrectly formed or has not been used when it is needed. A conditional sentence usually consists of an *if*-clause that states a condition and a result clause that shows the effect of that condition. Here is an example of a conditional sentence: *If our school had more money for equipment (the condition), we would have a better computer lab (the result).*

Conditional sentences can express two types of conditions: factual (sometimes called *real*) and hypothetical (sometimes called *unreal*). A factual conditional sentence expresses a real or predictable situation. *If he goes to the gym (condition), he relaxes (result).* A hypothetical conditional sentence expresses an unreal, untrue, or imagined situation. *If she were here (condition, meaning she is not here), we could leave (result).*

Errors with conditional sentences are global (more serious) and affect the meaning of individual sentences, parts of a paragraph, and whole paragraphs. The editing symbol for an error with the conditional is *cond.* The conditional has many important uses in academic and professional writing. Here are some examples.

1. To show cause-effect relationships

Example:

If prices increase (condition), spending drops (result).

2. To speculate about a past event

Example:

If ticket prices had dropped (condition), more people would have traveled (result).

3. To show a future possibility

Example:

If oil prices continue to increase (condition), the airlines will increase ticket prices (result).

To be able to show such relationships, writers need to master conditional sentences.

Suggestions for Reducing Errors

- Because both clauses must function together, learn the correct formation of the verb or verb phrase for both the *if*-clause (the condition) and the result clause of a conditional sentence.
- Check **both** clauses when revising to make sure that the verb or verb phrase is correct in each.
- Be aware that native speakers often do not form the conditional correctly when they are speaking.

Examples:

Incorrect: The hurricane could of (for could have) done major damage if it had lasted longer.

Incorrect: James would not have taken French if the university did not require (for had not required) it.

- Notice conditional sentences when you read; try to understand what they mean from the context.
- Memorize a set of your own hypothetical conditional sentences to use as a guide in your own writing. (See the Grammar Journal Entry in this unit.)
- Remember that, in a conditional sentence, a past verb form does not always mean past time, but may indicate a hypothetical condition.

Example:

If people used less water, we could conserve this precious resource.

(The time expressed in this conditional sentence is the present, but the past tense is used to show the writer is hypothesizing.)

Write answers to the following questions. Share your answers with another student.

1. Write a sample conditional sentence and identify the condition clause and the result clause.
2. What are the two types of conditional sentences?

GRAMMAR JOURNAL ENTRY 4 CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Respond to the following in your grammar journal.

1. If you were given the chance to change your life today, what would you do?
2. Write two example conditional sentences: one for the present/future hypothetical and the other for the past hypothetical. Check them with your instructor. Once you know they are correct, memorize them to use as guides for forming the hypothetical conditional when you are writing.

UNDERSTAND COMMON PROBLEMS

This section presents four problems that writers commonly encounter with conditional sentences. First, take the pre-test to see what you already know about conditional sentences. When you finish, check your answers on page 350. Then, carefully study each problem and the examples that illustrate it. Pay particular attention to the problems that correspond to the pre-test questions you had difficulty with.

Remember that becoming aware of the types of errors you most often make with conditional sentences will increase your chances of avoiding these errors in your writing.

Pre-test

What Do You Already Know?

Test your ability to recognize and correct errors with conditional sentences.

- A** Correct the marked conditional errors. These are examples of the four common problems that are presented in this unit.

Problem 1 If the weather improves, I ^{cond}would play tennis after finishing my homework.

Problem 2 The flight attendant ^{cond}would never have fix the problem if we had not brought it to her attention.

Problem 3 I am sorry I can't join you because I moved to New York last month. If I ^{cond}am still in Chicago, I ^{cond}will go to the meeting with you.

Problem 4 If she had not brought her ATM card with her, Sheila would have been without any money soon after she arrived in San Diego. After a few days of not eating much, she ^{cond} will feel very hungry.

B Underline and correct the error(s) in each of the following sentences. (The errors are not in any particular order.)

1. If her apartment was closer to the university, she could walk to class instead of taking the bus or riding her bike.
2. The teaching assistant for my math class has very strict rules. If we do not turn in our homework on time, he deducts points. He also refused to accept papers that are not stapled together.
3. The house would have burn down had the firefighters not arrived so quickly.
4. Last week, my teacher brought some candy bars containing peanuts to class to reward us for our hard work and good attendance. If she knows that two students are allergic to peanuts, she will not bring the candy.

Problem 1

The wrong verb or verb phrase has been used in either the condition or the result clause of a conditional sentence.

Four Common Problems

Incorrect: If I ^{cond} study hard for my anthropology exam, I ^{cond} would pass it.

Correct: If I study hard for my anthropology exam, I will pass it. (factual)

Correct: If I studied hard for my anthropology exam, I would pass it. (hypothetical)

Incorrect: I would have gotten to class earlier if the bus ^{cond} did not come late.

Correct: I would have gotten to class earlier if the bus had not come late. (past hypothetical)

SELF-HELP STRATEGY: If you are unsure about which verb form to use in the verb phrase, ask yourself if you are making a factual statement or hypothesizing. See Review Grammar Solutions on page 85.

Problem 2

The verb phrase in the conditional sentence has a verb-form error.

Incorrect: If Christi had not come to class, she ^{cond}would never had known an outline was due.

Correct: If Christi had not come to class, she would never have known an outline was due.

Incorrect: They ^{cond}would have cook dinner for us if we ^{cond}had ask them.

Correct: They would have cooked dinner for us if we had asked them.

Incorrect: If she had called earlier, I ^{cond}could of answered her question.

Correct: If she had called earlier, I could have answered her question.

Note: *Have* often sounds like *of* in speaking, which is why writers sometimes make this mistake.

SELF-HELP STRATEGY: Check the verb phrase in **both** clauses. Make sure that you have not only chosen the correct verb for the conditional but also have not made any errors in the verb form.

Problem 3

A hypothetical conditional sentence has not been used where one is needed.

Incorrect: I am a very disorganized person. For instance, I often cannot find my English homework because I have put it in my math notebook. If I ^{cond}am more organized (condition), I ^{cond}will have a separate color-coded folder for each class (result).

Correct: I am a very disorganized person. For instance, I often cannot find my English homework because I have put it in my math notebook. If I were more organized (condition), I would have a separate color-coded folder for each class (result).

(The writer is referring to a hypothetical situation, not a real situation.)

Problem 4

A conditional form has not been used in a later sentence to show an additional result or condition that was stated in an earlier sentence.

Incorrect: If our instructor gave us a test today (condition), she would find that we have not yet mastered the conditional (result). We will probably all fail.

Correct: If our instructor gave us a test today, she would find that we have not yet mastered the conditional. We would probably all fail.

(The conditional form must be used in the second sentence because it, too, is a result based on the condition in the preceding sentence. That is, *We would probably all fail if our instructor gave us a test today.*)

SELF-HELP STRATEGY: Use a conditional verb or verb phrase in all the result clauses that are based on a particular condition, whether or not the *if*-clause is repeated.

REVIEW GRAMMAR SOLUTIONS

A conditional sentence can either express a real or a hypothetical (contrary-to-fact) condition and gives the result of that condition.

Factual Conditional Sentences: Meaning and Use

In a factual conditional sentence, a real situation by definition exists or has a strong possibility of existing. Factual conditional sentences allow the writer to do the following:

1. To make predictions or express future possibilities

Examples:

If we use this method, we will probably get better results.

If my neighbor plays loud music, I will complain to the manager.

2. To express facts or habitual actions

Examples:

If sugar is mixed with water, it dissolves. (general fact)

If the elderly exercise regularly, they are generally happier.
(habitual action)

Note: *When* or *whenever* can be substituted for *if* in these sentences.

3. To make inferences

Examples:

If this compound contains carbon, it is organic material.

If that book is the latest edition, I bought the wrong one.

Note: *When* or *whenever* cannot be substituted for *if* in these sentences.

4. To give commands or instructions

Example:

If your laboratory experiment fails, do it again tomorrow.

Hypothetical Conditional Sentences: Meaning and Use

In a hypothetical conditional sentence, a situation does not exist or is not likely to exist. Hypothetical conditional sentences allow the writer to do the following:

1. To hypothesize or imagine what might happen in the present or future as the result of a given condition

In the writer's mind, it is not very likely that the situation will exist or the event will happen.

Example:

If my neighbor started to play loud rock music, I would complain to the apartment manager. (I do not think that she will start playing rock music, but I would take this action if she did.)

What is confusing about the hypothetical is that often the writer could use the factual conditional for the same sentence and simply make a prediction. What differentiates the two is how certain the writer feels about the action or event. Consider, for example: *If my neighbor starts to play rock music, I will complain to the apartment manager.* With the factual conditional, the sentence now has a different meaning. The writer knows that this neighbor often plays rock music, so she can safely predict the event will happen.

2. To express an impossible or counterfactual condition and the result of that condition

Examples:

If I were you, I would move out of that apartment. (I am not you, but this is what I would do in this situation.)

If Thomas Jefferson saw the White House today, he would not recognize it. (Thomas Jefferson cannot return to life to see the White House today, and since he was president, the White House has completely changed.)

Note: The factual conditional cannot be used in the example sentences above because these conditions cannot be made possible or true.

3. To imagine what could have happened in a past situation but never did

Example:

If Sang had not reviewed conditional sentences before the quiz, he would have lost ten points. (Sang did review them and he did not lose ten points.)

4. To evaluate or critique

Examples:

The article on carbon footprints would be more convincing if further information were presented.

The data would be easier to read if the author had presented it in table form.

The presentation would have been clearer if the presenter had shown us her data on slides.

Factual Conditional Sentences: Forming the Verb and Verb Phrase

In factual conditional sentences, the sequence of tenses varies according to the meaning of the conditional sentence and the time the writer wants to express.

1. To make predictions or talk about future possibilities

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
present tense	<i>will, can, should, could, may, might</i> + base form
present progressive tense	OR
present perfect tense	<i>will, can, should, could, may, might</i> + <i>be</i> + base form + <i>-ing</i>

Examples:

If we go to Philadelphia, we can see the Liberty Bell.

If Andreas is trying to get online right now, he will discover that the server is down.

If the committee has reached a decision, we can continue the meeting.

If her flight has not yet taken off, Emiliana might be arriving after midnight.

The conditional sentence with *will* in the result clause on page 87 expresses the strongest possibility, a prediction. The other modals in the example sentences indicate a lesser degree of possibility.

The future tense is not used in an *if*-clause.

Examples:

If you have not bought your ticket, you may not get a seat.

If Mina is not attending class regularly, she could fail the course.

If the letter has not come by now, it might not arrive at all.

2. To express facts or habitual actions

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
same tense (present or past)	same tense (present or past)

Examples:

If the alarm rings, it is time to get up. (fact)

Whenever my roommate studied late, I stayed up, too. (habitual action)

Note: *When* and *whenever* are often used instead of *if* to express a habitual action.

3. To make inferences

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
present tense	<i>must</i> or <i>should</i> + base form
past tense	<i>must have</i> + past participle

Examples:

If the store is already closed, it must be later than we thought.

If Nam forgot his identification card, he must have gone to the security office.

4. To give commands or instructions

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
present tense	imperative
past tense	
present perfect tense	

Examples:

If you miss the lecture, go to see the teacher.

If you missed the lecture, go to see the teacher.

If you have missed your plane, go to the ticket counter.

Hypothetical Conditional Sentences

When forming the verb or verb phrase in hypothetical conditional sentences, note that the time of the sentence is not related to the verb tense used. For example, in the sentence *If I were you* (condition), *I would go* (result), *were* does not signal past time but, instead, a condition that is contrary to fact. The same is true for the sentence *If I had been there* (condition), *she would not have won* (result). In this sentence, *had been* does not signal an event that happened before another in the past, but rather it is used to indicate that the writer is speculating about an event that has already taken place in the past.

1. To express a present or future hypothetical or contrary-to-fact situation

Note: In the condition clause, *were* is used for all forms of *be*.

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
simple past tense	<i>would, could, might</i> + base form <i>would, could, might</i> + <i>be</i> + <i>-ing</i> form

Examples:

If I were you, I would save more money.

If Tran lived at home instead of in the dormitory, she would have a quiet place to study.

If Abdul washed his car every week, he would not always be complaining about how dirty it is.

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
past progressive tense	<i>would, could, might</i> + base form <i>would, could, might</i> + <i>be</i> + <i>-ing</i> form

Examples:

If Sheila were not working in the dining hall, she could not afford college.

If Ara were working in town, he would not be spending so much time driving to work.

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
<i>could, would</i> + base form	<i>would, could, might</i> + base form <i>would, could, might</i> + <i>be</i> + <i>-ing</i> form

Example:

If Mike could think of a good topic, he would start his term paper.

2. To express a hypothetical situation in the past

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
past perfect tense	would, could, might + have + past participle would, could, might + have + been + -ing form

Examples:

If Gail had turned her lab report in on time, she would have received the full ten points on it.

If Lan had not refused to loan us his car, we could have been driving to the beach right now.

CONDITION CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
past perfect progressive tense	would, could, might + have + past participle would, could, might + have been + -ing form

Examples:

Natasha might have enjoyed the movie if she had not been feeling sick.

If Matt had been paying attention in class, he would not have been asking his friends about the assignment last night.

Note: It is often helpful to understand hypotheticals by mentally inserting a "but" clause after the condition.

Examples:

If I had studied harder last night [*but I did not*], I would have done better on my midterm this morning.

If the Olympic Committee had not chosen Salt Lake City for the Winter Games [*but they did*], the United States would have been disappointed.

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING STYLE

MIXING CONDITIONAL TYPES

It may sometimes be necessary to mix conditional types. The most common combination involves a past condition and a present result.

Example:

If I had eaten breakfast this morning, my stomach would not be growling.
(I did not eat breakfast this morning, so my stomach is growling now.)

VARIATIONS IN CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

You can use conjunctions other than if. Although if is the most commonly used conjunction to express the conditional, other conjunctions—such as even if, when, whenever, whether, and unless (meaning “if . . . not”)—can also be used.

Examples:

Whether it rains or not, I will still go to the movies.
(I will go [result] regardless of the weather [condition].)

Unless I find my keys, I cannot unlock my bike.
(I must have my keys [condition] to unlock my bike [result].)
(If I do not find my keys, I cannot unlock my bike.)

You can write conditional sentences without if by reversing the subject and the verb in the if-clause. This formation is most commonly used with had and should but may also be used with were.

Examples:

Had I known the test was today, I would have studied the chapter.

Should the telephone ring while I am out, please answer it.

Were I closer to the front, I could hear the speaker better.

Continued on page 92.

IMPROVE YOUR WRITING STYLE (CONT.)

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES WITHOUT AN *IF*-CLAUSE

Be aware that sometimes the if-clause is not stated with the past hypothetical.

Examples:

That experiment would not work.

(Implied statement: even if the researcher tried it)

Most students would prefer a night class to an 8:00 AM class.

(Implied statement: if they had the opportunity to choose)

IF MEANING *WHETHER*

Know that if does not always signal a conditional clause. It can also be used to replace “whether” (whether . . . or not) in a noun clause.

Example:

The instructor has not yet decided *if* she will offer a review session.

COMMON USES OF THE HYPOTHETICAL

Know these common uses of the hypothetical, which are found in both written and spoken English.

1. To give advice

Examples:

If I were you, I would ask Professor Jones if he would be your advisor.

If I were you, I wouldn't choose Professor Smith as an advisor.

Do you think I should take the job? If I were you, I would.

2. To express a wish

Examples:

I wish the spring quarter were over.

I wish I had a car.

I wish I had passed the English examination.

I wish I hadn't had to disagree with my professor (but I felt he was wrong).

PRACTICE WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

EXERCISE 1

Directions: Read each sentence and then answer the questions to test your understanding of the structure and meaning of conditional sentences.

1. If Lucia has enough money, she will go to Hawaii for a vacation.
 - a. Does Lucia have enough money yet? no
 - b. Will she go to Hawaii for a vacation? yes, when she has enough money
 - c. What is the time expressed in the statement? future

2. If Jim were 16 years old, he would be able to drive.
 - a. Is Jim 16 yet? _____
 - b. Can he drive? _____
 - c. What is the time expressed in the statement? _____

3. If Mary had asked Jim to keep the news a secret, he would not have told you that she had received an award.
 - a. Did Mary ask to have the news kept a secret? _____
 - b. Did Jim tell you the news? _____
 - c. What is the time expressed in the statement? _____

EXERCISE 2

Directions: Test your understanding of the time frame of the conditional by reading the following conditional sentences. Check (✓) which time you think is expressed in each sentence.

1. If I have time, I work out at the gym.

present past future

2. If I have time, I will work out at the gym.

present past future

3. If I had time, I would work out at the gym.

present past future

4. If I had had time, I would have worked out at the gym.

present past future

5. If I hadn't worked out at the gym, I would not be so far behind on my paper.

present past future

6. If I had been smart, I would have started my paper earlier.

present past future

EXERCISE 3

Directions: Test your understanding of the meaning and formation of conditional sentences. Decide whether each of the following sentences is correct (C) or incorrect (I). If a sentence is incorrect, make the correction.

Examples: I If the teacher had not been ill, he would ~~had~~^{have} come to class.

C Bob would have received a better grade if he had attended class regularly.

 1. If I have a car, I would not ask my friends to take me shopping.

- ___ 2. If Margaret had slept more, she would not have trouble staying awake during the chemistry lecture yesterday.
- ___ 3. If the teacher had not stopped us at 10 o'clock, I would have been able to finish the test.
- ___ 4. If I will go to Los Angeles next week, I will see all my friends.
- ___ 5. If Peter went to the bookstore later today, he can buy two notebooks for the price of one.
- ___ 6. If Edith had not had to turn in her paper today, she would had skipped class.
- ___ 7. If the weather is nice, Marcella always took a walk after dinner.
- ___ 8. If I could found a ride home this weekend, I would give my parents a surprise visit.
- ___ 9. When it is hot outside, I drink plenty of water.
- ___ 10. If I were going to a community college, I would be living at my parents' home.

EXERCISE 4

Directions: Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

Example: If the weather is nice tomorrow, the teacher will hold
(hold) class outside.

1. If the city _____ (expand) the parking space downtown, we would not have had to park so far away from the movie theater.
2. When my roommate _____ (snore) loudly, I cannot sleep.
3. Some celebrities get depressed if their names _____ not _____ (appear) in the news.

4. If we _____ not _____ (have) to take an exam on the conditional, we might not have learned it.
5. Maya _____ not _____ (pass) her driving test unless she calms down.
6. If it _____ (be) winter, all these trees would be covered with snow.
7. Had it not rained, the farmers _____ (lose) their crops.
8. If the airplane had not had a mechanical problem, we _____ probably _____ (arrive) in Tucson by now.
9. We _____ (lie) on the beach in Mexico right now if we had been able to get our visas on time.
10. I _____ (try) to find more opportunities to speak English if I were you.

EXERCISE 5

Directions: In this student paragraph, fill in the blanks with the correct form of the conditional.

In April, I had difficulty deciding whether to go home and get a job for the summer or to attend summer school at my university. I decided that if I talked⁽¹⁾ (talk) to my friend, who is already a senior, I would get some useful advice. He told me that he wished he _____⁽²⁾ (not stay) on campus the summer after his first year of college. He thinks that if he had spent his first summer at home recovering from an intense first year of college, he _____⁽³⁾ (feel) refreshed and ready to return to studying as a sophomore. I have decided he is right. Although I will miss my friends on campus, I know it is important for me to make money this summer and to take a break from school. Moreover, if I _____⁽⁴⁾ (not make) any money, I am afraid that I will have to take out a loan to pay my tuition fees in the fall.

EXERCISE 6

Directions: Complete the following sentences.

Example: If I were the instructor of this class,

I would let the students out early today.

1. If Jennifer did not have to be in class right now, _____

2. I would have gotten to class earlier if _____

3. If I had gotten enough sleep last night, _____

4. I would complain about this class if _____

5. If Vincent has time later, _____

6. If I had had time during the weekend, _____

7. If I had a little extra money, _____

8. If students are given too much to learn, _____

9. If the tuition were lowered, _____

10. Even if we could have raised the money to buy George a gift,

EXERCISE 7

Directions: Write answers to the following questions.

1. If you have a problem, whom do you usually share it with?

2. If today were Saturday, where would you probably be right now?

3. Given the chance to make the decision again, would you choose to attend the same school you are attending or to accept the same job?

EXERCISE 8

Directions: The following student paragraph contains errors in the use of the conditional. Correct these errors. The first one has been done for you. There is more than one way to revise the paragraph, and the number of errors will vary depending on how you choose to revise it.

Last year, I lived in a dormitory on campus. It was, unfortunately, always noisy. If I ~~did not live~~ ^{had not lived} there, I would certainly have had more time to study for my classes, and I would have eaten better food. On the other hand, I would make fewer friends last year. For next year, I have decided I want to live off campus in an apartment. Soon I will have to start thinking about choosing a roommate and getting an apartment. On the one hand, I would prefer to live with my best friend, Joan. However, if I pick my best friend, I would have no one to turn to when my roommate and I have an argument. On the other hand, if I decided to live with one of my new friends from the dorm, then I hurt Joan's feelings. Perhaps, when I talk to Joan next week, we would figure out together what to do.

Post-test**What Do You Know Now?**

A Decide whether each of the following conditional sentences is correct (C) or incorrect (I). If the sentence is incorrect, cross out the error(s) and make the correction(s).

- _____ 1. If I study in the evening, I learned much faster.
- _____ 2. It must have been later than we thought if the library is already closed.
- _____ 3. I will continue my studies if I will receive a scholarship.
- _____ 4. If I were attending a university in Korea, I am seeing my family more often.
- _____ 5. If Mike could find his safety glasses, he will start the experiment.
- _____ 6. I would not have gotten to class late if I had finished my chemistry experiment on time.
- _____ 7. If my father goes to San Francisco next week, he will see the Golden Gate Bridge.
- _____ 8. If Jean turned her research paper in on time, she would have received full credit.

B Complete the following sentences using the factual (real) conditional.

1. If my roommate forgets to lock the door, _____

2. If a grammar exam tests only the hardest rules, _____

3. When a hurricane is forecast, _____

C Complete the following sentences using the hypothetical (unreal) conditional in the present/future time frame.

1. If the students could vote on whether to take a test or not,

2. If Max had a better apartment, _____

3. If Francis bought a brand-new car, _____

D Complete the following sentences using the hypothetical conditional (unreal) in the past time frame.

1. If the teacher had come to class early, _____

2. If my roommate had not eaten all the food, _____

3. Had the instructor given the assignment next week instead of today,

E Complete the following conditional sentences. Be sure to determine whether the conditional sentence is factual (real) or hypothetical (unreal) and what time frame it is expressing.

1. If students had worked harder on improving their English while they were still in high school, _____

2. If students take the review class offered before a midterm, _____

3. Many students will be on the waiting list for advanced calculus unless

4. Janice felt that she would have passed the writing test last spring if

F Correct the underlined errors marked *cond*.

Yesterday we had our last midterm in Psychology 1A before the final exam. It was a difficult exam. The teacher told us that if we study all the chapters, the exam would be easy. However, it was extraordinarily difficult, for it tested us on what we did not know rather than on what we did know. I honestly feel, in looking back, that even if I studied more, I would not have done any better on the test. My friend thinks that if she had had more time, she would do better. She insists that if she plans her time better, she will do well on the final exam, which is in two weeks. If the last midterm was not so difficult, I would believe her. However, based on that exam, I think that even if I study the chapters and have plenty of time, I would pass, but I will not get an A. In fact, I think that if I studied for a whole year, I still would not get an A on that exam.

APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED TO WRITING

Select a writing topic and follow the steps in Appendix A on page 337.



Topic 1:

If you could take an all-expense-paid trip to any place in the world for two weeks, where would you most like to go and why? Write about what type of transportation you would probably use the most on this trip and what kinds of activities you would most like to do at this place.



Topic 2:

If you had the power to change anything in your country or in the United States, what would you most like to change and why? (Alternatively, you could choose to change something in your school or workplace.)



Topic 3:

Think about the growth in online education. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of this type of education, in which the student does not go to class but rather sits in front of a computer or uses other electronic equipment to learn?