ENGLISH

MATTERS

COOL
CONDITIONALS

DODATEK

Cool Conditionals

If you're wondering how to make <u>conditional statements</u>, this guide is for you. If you read it all, your abilities will <u>improve</u>. If you asked for a '<u>comprehensive guide</u> to conditionals' this is what you would get. If you hadn't started reading this guide, you wouldn't have read an example of four types of conditionals <u>back-to-back</u>. If you would like to continue, read on.

conditional statement | wyrażenia warunkowe
to improve | polepszyć się
comprehensive | wyczerpujący
guide | przewodnik
back-to-back | następujący jeden po drugim

The Basics

Conditional sentences have two (or more) parts. These parts are called <u>clauses</u>. One of the clauses is <u>dependent on</u> the other – its truth is **conditional** to the other. The two clauses are connected by the term 'if,' '<u>unless</u>,' or 'when.' The clauses can come in <u>either</u> <u>order</u> in the sentence; usually we put the 'if' clause first and separate the sentence with a <u>comma</u>. If you put the 'if' clause second, no comma is used. There are different types of conditionals, each for different types of situation being described. To <u>differentiate</u> between the types, different tenses are used. The types of conditionals are: first, second, third, zero, and mixed.

A Quick Note on 'Unless'

We can use the word 'unless' <u>instead of</u> 'if' in conditionals. The <u>meaning</u> of the word is like a negative version of 'if,' so 'unless' clauses are like saying 'if this clause doesn't happen, then…' Because of this, the second clause in such conditionals is often also negative, but it doesn't have to be.

Zero Conditional

If/When/Unless + present simple/continuous, present simple/continuous
For example: *When I need bread, I go to the <u>bakery</u>. OR: I go to the bakery when I need bread.*

clause klɔːz **|** zdanie składowe
dependent on sth | zależny od czegoś
unless ənˈles **|** jeśli nie, chyba że
either | *tu:* dowolny
order | porządek
comma | przecinek
to differentiate sth təˌdɪfəˈrenʃieɪt ˈsʌmθɪŋ **|** odróżnić coś
instead of sth | zamiast czegoś
meaning | znaczenie
bakery | piekarnia

We use the zero conditional to talk about situations and events that are general truths – like habits and rules for our life: *"If I'm <u>thirsty</u>, I have a drink" "When I'm tired, I go to bed" "If the red light shines, stop at the line."* It's like cause and effect, where the 'if' clause shows the cause, and what follows is the effect.

More Examples:

If my back feels stiff, I do some <u>stretches</u>.
If you like <u>chocolate</u>, try the cake.
Don't leave the house unless you really have to.
When we finish school, we go straight home.
We wear a mask all the time, unless we're in the forest.
If I'm running late, I <u>skip</u> breakfast.
Don't eat the <u>pasta</u> if you're allergic to <u>peanuts</u>.

thirsty | spragniony
stretch | *tu:* rozciąganie
chocolate ˈtʃɒklət / ˈtʃɔːklət **|** czekolada
to skip sth | pominąć coś
pasta | makaron
peanut ˈpiːnʌt **|** orzech ziemny

Exercise 1

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Unless someone is in the room, I …………… (switch) off the lights.
2. When you buy fruit, it's best to …………… (use) <u>reusable</u> bags.
3. All <u>employees</u> must take a medical exam unless they ……………
(have) a <u>valid</u> medical examination certificate.
4. Unless you are 18 or older, you …………… (can not) come in.
5. He should do more exercise if he …………… (want) to lose <u>weight</u>.

Answers: 1. switch 2. use 3. have 4. can't/can not 5. wants

Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps with the right word from this list (you may need to <u>conjugate</u> verbs): if, hurt, if, <u>boil</u>, accept.

1. If you heat water to 100C, it …………… .
2. When you open a webpage, you're asked if you …………… cookies.
3. …………… you don't get enough sleep, you feel tired.
4. She always says 'yes' …………… you offer her a tea.
5. If you bite your <u>tongue</u>, it ……………!

Answers: 1. boils 2. accept 3. if 4. if 5. hurts

reusable ˌriːˈjuːzəbl **|** wielokrotnego użytku
employee | pracownik
valid | ważny, aktualny
weight weɪt **|** waga
to conjugate sth | odmieniać coś
to boil | wrzeć, gotować się
tongue tʌŋ **|** język

First Conditional

If/When/Unless + present simple/continuous, will/won't + infinitive
For example: *If I need bread, I'll go to the bakery.* OR: *I'll go to the bakery if I need bread.*
The first conditional is used to describe real possibilities in the future. Note that both clauses describe a real possibility, both of which are often in the future (although the 'if' clause may also talk about the present) but the 'if' clause does NOT include 'will.' It is also possible to use other modal verbs in place of 'will' in the 'will' clause. In the first conditional, the modal verb clause is dependent on the 'if' clause. Much like the zero conditional, one clause is caused by the other, however, the key difference is that the zero conditional talks about general truths (always true), whereas the first conditional talks about one real possibility (where other possibilities could also be true on different occasions) of the future, according to the real situation of the present or future.
Consider the bakery example:
"*When I need bread, I go to the bakery.*" This means that every time I need bread, I go to the bakery (zero conditional).
"*If I need bread, I'll to the bakery.*" This means I think there is a possibility that I will need bread in the future. If that does turn out to be the case, I will solve the need for bread by going to the bakery (first conditional).

More Examples:

If you cycle to work, you will save money on petrol.
If you adopt a dog, you will have to walk it every day.
When you pass your exam, you'll get a certificate.
You'll feel great if you do something nice for her.
If we go in summer, the weather will be nicer.
Unless we pay the bill, the Internet will be cut off.
If you want to wake up early tomorrow, you should go to bed early tonight.

although | chociaż
to include sth | obejmować coś
whereas | podczas gdy
according to sth | według czegoś, zgodnie z czymś
to turn out | okazywać się, okazać się
to save sth | zaoszczędzić coś
to pass sth | *tu:* zdać coś
weather | pogoda
cut off | odłączony

Exercise 1:

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets.
1. They won't let you in if you …………… (not have) a mask.
2. If you want to go to the festival, you …………… (have to) <u>buy</u> a ticket <u>in advance</u>.
3. He'll <u>definitely</u> get better if he …………… (practise) every day.
4. She …………… (not be) <u>laughing</u> when she sees the mess inside!
5. If you ask nicely, I'm sure she …………… (say) yes.
6. Unless the law is changed, I …………… leave the country.

Answers: 1. don't have 2. will have to 3. practises 4. won't be 5. will say 6. will leave.

Exercise 2

Fill in the gaps with the right word from this list (you may need to conjugate verbs): unless, shine, enjoy, build, water, when.
1. If you …………… it, they will come.
2. …………… you <u>tidy up</u> right now, I will be very angry.
3. If you like horror films, you …………… the new scary movie.
4. I will come …………… you call.
5. If he …………… the flowers every day, they will die.
6. If the weather <u>forecast</u> is correct, the sun …………… tomorrow (*continuous*).

Answers: 1. build 2. Unless 3. will enjoy 4. when 5. doesn't water 6. will be shining.

to buy sth in advance | kupić coś z wyprzedzeniem
definitely | zdecydowanie
to laugh tə lɑːf / læf **|** śmiać się
to tidy up | po/sprzątać
forecast ˈfɔːkɑːst / ˈfɔːrkæst **|** prognoza

Second Conditional

If/Unless + past simple/continuous, would/wouldn't + infinitive

For example: *If I needed bread, I would go to the bakery.* OR: *I'd go to the bakery if I needed bread.*

The second conditional is used to describe <u>hypothetical</u> and <u>imaginary</u> situations of the future. The 'if' clause describes an imaginary present or future, and the 'would' clause tells the imaginary result of it (also in the future). The times being described (present or future – > future) are the same as those in the first conditional, the key difference is that in the second conditional these clauses are hypothetical (not real). To <u>indicate</u> this imaginary nature, the past tense is used, but remember, this does not mean the past is being described (that's what the third conditional is for!). Let's look again at the bread example:

If I needed bread, I would go to the bakery. Because this is the second conditional, this situation is not real, therefore we know that I do **not** need bread.

Note: 'Would' and 'had' can both be shortened to 'd – watch out for this in the second conditional!

hypothetical ˌhaɪpə'θetɪkl **|** hipotetyczny
imaginary ɪ'mædʒɪnəri **|** wymyślony
to indicate sth | wskazywać (na) coś

Exercise 1:

Decide if the statements are true or false after reading the accompanying conditional:

1. If he liked football, he would go to the match.
He likes football. (T/F)
2. Unless you'd like to <u>fail</u>, you'd better study.
If you don't study, you're likely to fail. (T/F)
3. If she had a superpower, she would be super strong.
She is super strong. (T/F)
4. If you worked here, you would know how bad the coffee is.
You know how bad the coffee is. (T/F)
5. If they could go anywhere, they would go to Zimbabwe.
They can go anywhere. (T/F)

Answers: 1. F 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. F

Exercise 2:

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. If she was rich, she .... (<u>retire</u>) tomorrow!
2. They would take the bus if they .... (not have) a car.
3. I would tell you if I .... (know).
4. If you weren't an <u>engineer</u>, what job .... you ....
   (have)?
5. I'd learn the piano if I .... (have) more time.

Answers: 1. would retire 2. didn't have 3. knew 4. would you have 5. had

to fail sth | oblać coś (np. egzamin)
to retire | przejść na emeryturę
engineer ˌendʒɪˈnɪə(r) / ˌendʒɪˈnɪr **|** inżynier

Third Conditional

If/Unless + past perfect simple/continuous, would/wouldn't + have + past participle

For example: *If I had needed bread, I would have gone to the bakery.* OR: *I'd have gone to the bakery if I'd needed bread.*

The third conditional uses a lot of <u>auxiliary</u> verbs, so it can be a little tricky to put together. In reality, in real spoken English, a lot of these words <u>get squashed</u> together in pronunciation, but they cannot be left out. The third conditional, like the second, is all about hypothetical, imaginary situations. The thing that differentiates it from the second conditional is that it talks about the past. Both clauses of the third conditional describe the past – an alternative past that we can imagine was caused by an alternative past-past! Let's look at the bread example again:

If I had needed bread, I would have gone to the bakery. This means that in the past, I did not need bread (perhaps I already had some, or I simply wasn't hungry). But, we can imagine the opposite situation where I did need bread – to describe this hypothetical past, and the resulting action I could have taken (also in the past) to <u>remedy</u> the situation, we use the third conditional.

> ## <u>A Few</u> More Examples:
>
> *If I had wanted to go to the ball, I would have bought a new dress.*
> *(I didn't want to go to the ball, so I didn't buy a new dress.)*
> *I would have won the <u>competition</u> if my battery hadn't died.*
> *(My battery died. I didn't win the competition.)*
> *I wouldn't have bought the <u>bun</u> if I'd known it was filled with chocolate.*
> *(I bought the bun. I didn't know it was filled with chocolate.)*
> *They wouldn't have opened the restaurant if they had known about the new regulations.*
> *(They opened a restaurant. They didn't know about the new regulations.)*
>
> **auxiliary** ɔːɡˈzɪliəri | pomocniczy
> **to get squashed |** *tu:* zlewać się
> **to remedy sth |** zaradzić czemuś
> **a few |** kilka
> **competition |** zawody
> **bun |** bułeczka, bułka

Exercise 1:

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verb in brackets:

1. They wouldn't have been late if they …………… on time. (leave)
2. If he …………… (not bring) the toys, there wouldn't have been anything to play with.
3. They …………… (not be) <u>punished</u> if they hadn't <u>lied</u>.
4. If you hadn't <u>fallen asleep</u>, you …………… (not miss) the end of the film.
5. Well, I wouldn't have fallen asleep if the film …………… (not be) so boring!

Answers: 1. had left 2. hadn't brought 3. wouldn't have been 4. wouldn't have missed 5. hadn't been.

Exercise 2:

Make third conditional sentences from the statements given.

Example: We <u>missed</u> the bus. We left the house late.
We wouldn't have missed the bus if we hadn't left the house late.
1. We ate the whole cake. We felt ill.
2. There was a <u>witness</u>. He was arrested.
3. He said Ronaldo was better than Messi. We stopped being friends.
4. She didn't know who won. She didn't watch the match.
5. I had a motorbike. I didn't buy the car.

Answers:
1. If we hadn't eaten the whole cake, we wouldn't have felt ill.
2. If there hadn't been a witness, he wouldn't have been arrested.
3. If he hadn't said (that) Ronaldo was better than Messi, we wouldn't have stopped being friends.
4. She would have known who'd won if she had watched the match. (Another possible answer, but less likely situation: If she'd known who had won, she would have watched the match).
5. If I hadn't had a motorbike, I would have bought the car.

to punish sb | u/karać kogoś
to lie | s/kłamać

to fall asleep | zasypiać
to miss sth | *tu:* spóźnić się na coś

witness | świadek

Mixed Conditionals

We have discussed cause and effect, real and imaginary situations, and the past, present and future…but sometimes these situations <u>overlap</u> – they do so in imaginary/hypothetical situations. For example, we can easily imagine an alternative past causing an alternative present. Or, an alternative present causing an alternative past. <u>In order to</u> express such situations, we <u>combine</u> the second <u>and</u> third conditionals, taking the 'if' clause from one, and the second clause from another.

Consider these examples:

Mixed Conditional 1: If I had needed bread, I would be in the bakery. (I'm not in the bakery because in the past, I decided I didn't need bread. However, if that past had been different, my present location would be the bakery.) This is a third conditional 'if' clause (alternative past) and a second conditional 'would' clause (alternative present). Honestly, this is not a <u>common</u> mixed conditional, but it does occur from time to time.

Mixed Conditional 2: If I needed bread, I would have gone to the bakery. (I don't need bread (still true in the present), so I didn't go to the bakery (in the past)). This is a second conditional 'if' clause describing a hypothetical present (or future) and a third conditional 'would + have + infinitive' clause describing an alternative past. This mixed conditional is more common than the other, and is often used to justify our past actions based on our current situation or feeling.

to overlap | nakładać się na siebie, zazębiać się
in order to | aby, żeby
to combine sth and sth | łączyć coś z czymś
common | powszechnie

Exercise 1:

Label the clauses of the mixed conditionals as second or third conditional and indicate what (hypothetical) time they refer to.
Example: If I needed cash, I would have gone to the <u>ATM</u> yesterday.
Second (present/future) + third (past)
1. If wasn't scared of clowns, I would have bought tickets to the circus.
2. I would have an umbrella if I had watched the weather forecast this morning.
3. If you had listened to me, we wouldn't be in this mess.
4. I would love to go with you if I hadn't already <u>agreed</u> to go with Charlie.
5. If you hadn't come to <u>collect</u> me, I'd still be walking.

Answers: 1. Second (present) + third (past), 2. Second (present) + third (past), 3. Third (past) + Second (present), 4. Second (present/future) + third (past), 5. Third (past) + Second (present).

Exercise 2:

Match the clauses to make mixed conditionals.
1. If this computer wasn't so slow,
2. If I had a boyfriend,
3. If you'd gone to bed when I told you to,
4. If you'd have told her the truth,
5. If I hadn't sold my bitcoins years ago,
a) she'd be a happier person.
b) I'd have finished by now.
c) I'd be rich.
d) you wouldn't be so tired now.
e) you'd have met him by now.

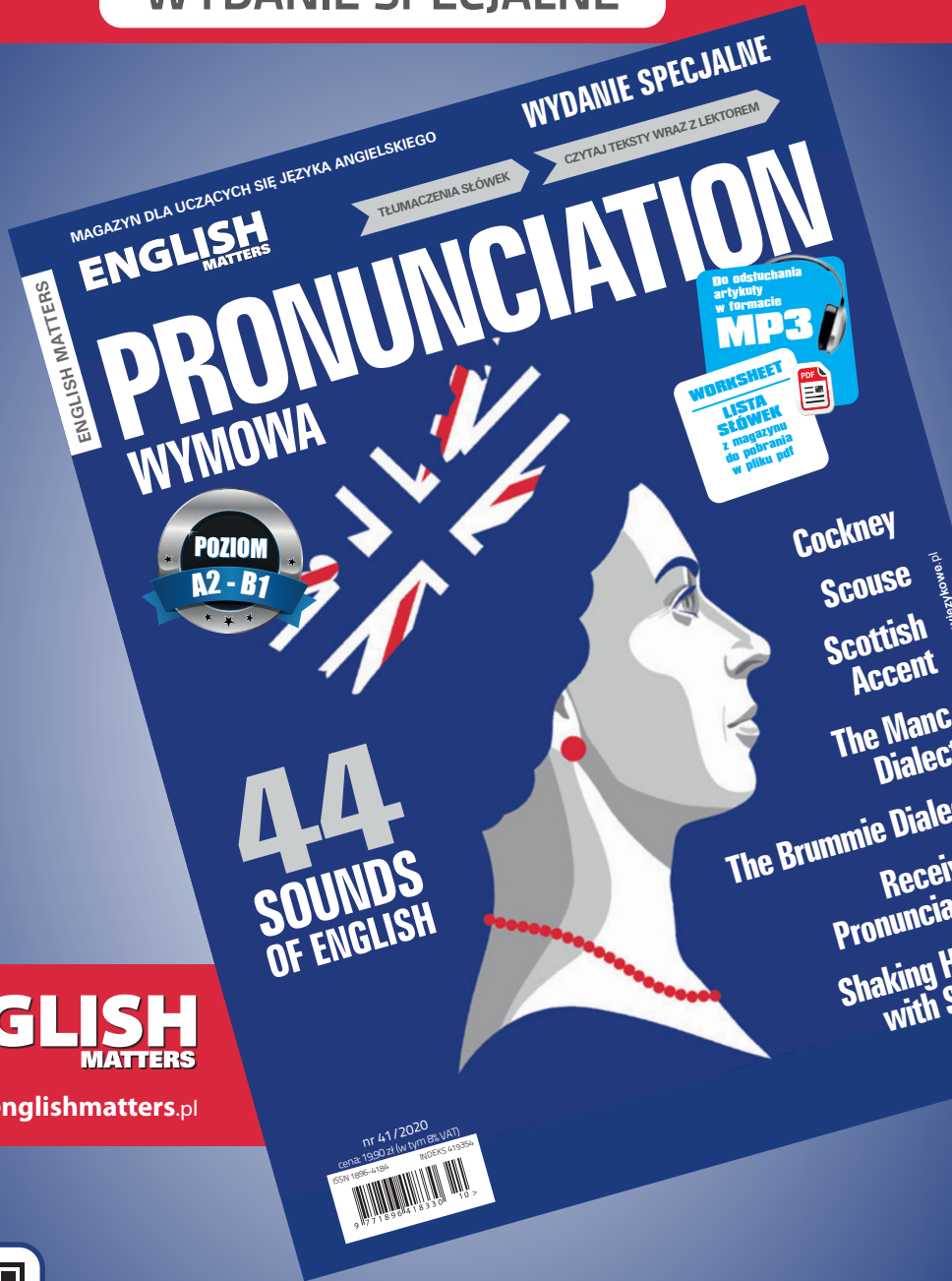Answers: 1b, 2e, 3d, 4a, 5c.

ATM = automated teller machine | bankomat
to agree | zgadzać się
to collect sb | odbierać kogoś