**University of Bejaia**

**Faculty of exact sciences**

**Department of computer science**

**Module: technical English**

**Level: L2**

**Lesson five: Conditional sentences:**

The conditional sentence consists of two parts:

If clause main clause

(The condition) (The result)

The order of the clauses is not fixed, i.e.; we can start the conditional sentence either with the “if clause’ or with the “main clause.”

**E.g. :**

* + - If you do your homework, we will go to the cinema.
    - We will go to the cinema if you do your homework.

However, in the second example we must omit the comma.

There are four types of conditional sentences.

**CONDITIONAL TYPE ZERO:**

|  |
| --- |
| **If clause main clause**    **If + present tense present tense.** |

**Use:** the zero conditional expresses conditions that **are always true** with **automatic habitual results.**

The zero conditional is used to make statement about **the real world,** and often refers to **general truth**, such as **scientific facts**. It is also often used to **give instructions** using the **imperative** in the main clause.

**Examples:**

* If you heat ice, it melts. **(General truth, scientific fact)**
* If you boil water, it vaporizes. **(General truth, scientific fact)**
* If you want to come, call me before. **(Instruction, with imperative in main clause)**

In conditional type zero, we can replace the conjunction “if” by “when”, without changing in the meaning of the sentence.

**Examples:**

* If you heat ice, it melts**.**
* When you heat ice, it melts.

As in all conditional sentences, the order is not fixed.

**Examples:**

* + - * + If you heat ice, it melts.
        + The ice melts if you heat it.
        + When you heat ice, it melts.
        + The ice melts when you heat it.

**CONDITIONAL TYPE ONE: probable condition**

|  |
| --- |
| If + present tense future simple( will/may/can) + stem or bare infinitive |

**Use:** it is used to express a possible condition and a probable/possible result.

**Examples:**

* If it rains, I will stay at home.

These sentences are based on fact, and they are used to make statements about the real world and about particular situations.

We often use such sentences to give warnings as in the following examples:

**E.g. :**

* + - If you don’t leave, I will call the police.
    - If you don’t drop the gun, I will shoot.

In type one conditional sentences, you can also use modals instead of future tense to express the degree of degree of certainty, permission, or a recommendation about the outcome.

**Example:**

* If I have time, I may finish that letter.

**CONDITIONAL TYPE TWO: unreal condition**

|  |
| --- |
| If + past simple would/could/might + stem or bare infinitive |

**Use:** it is used to express present unreal or imaginary situation. It expresses a hypothetical/unreal condition. This means that the speaker knows that what he says is impossible to happen or contrary to known facts.

**Note:** ” were” is used with “I”, “she”, “he”, in conditional type two.

**Example**: if I **were** offered the job, I would accept it.

**UNLESS/IF:**

|  |
| --- |
| Unless + affirmative form == if + negative form |

**Examples:**

* **If** he **didn’t stop** smoking, he would not recover
* **Unless** he **stopped** smoking, he would not recover
* We will go to the park **if doesn’t** rain.
* We will go to the park **unless** it **rains.**