Real Conditionals, Unreal Conditionals, and Wishes

PRESENT AND FUTURE REAL CONDITIONALS		
IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PRESENT	**(THEN)**	**SIMPLE PRESENT**
If I**'m** on time,	(then)	I **walk** to work.

IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PRESENT	**(THEN)**	**FUTURE**
If it**'s** not too late,	(then)	I**'ll walk** to work. I**'m going to walk** to work.

IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PRESENT	**(THEN)**	**MODAL**
If I **leave** on time,	(then)	I **may walk** to work.

IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PRESENT	**(THEN)**	**IMPERATIVE**
If you **have** time,	(then)	**walk** with me.

PRESENT AND FUTURE UNREAL CONDITIONALS		
IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PAST	**(THEN)**	**WOULD + VERB**
If I **had** the time,	(then)	I **would walk** to work. I**'d walk** to work.

IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PAST	**(THEN)**	**COULD + VERB**
If I **left** on time,	(then)	I **could walk** to work.

IF CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE
IF + SIMPLE PAST	**(THEN)**	**MIGHT + VERB**
If I **left** on time,	(then)	I **might walk** to work.

Real and Unreal Conditionals

- Conditional sentences have a dependent *if* clause and a main clause.
- When the *if* clause comes first, it is followed by a comma. *Then* is usually omitted before the main clause, but it is always implied.

   If I'm on time, (then) **I walk** to work.   **If I had** the time, (then) **I'd walk** to work.

- When the main clause is first, there is no comma and *then* is not used. The meaning is the same.

   I walk to work **if I'm** on time.   **I'd walk** to work **if I had** the time.

- In conditional sentences, either clause or both clauses can be negative.

   If I'm not on time, **I take** the bus.   **If I'm not** on time, **I won't walk** to work.

- Questions with conditionals are formed by putting the main clause in question word order.

   If it's not too late, **are you going to walk** to work?

   If you had the time, **would you walk** to work?

Real Conditionals

- In real conditionals, the verb in the *if* clause is in the present, even if it has future meaning.

  If you go tomorrow, **call** me.

- Real conditionals can also be formed with the present continuous in the *if* clause.

  If you're going tomorrow, **call me**.   **If it's raining**, **I might take** the bus.

Unreal Conditionals

- When an unreal conditional *if* clause contains the verb *be*, use *were* for all subjects.

  If I were on time, **I'd walk** to work.

- Unreal conditionals can also be formed with the past continuous in the *if* clause.

  If I were leaving now, **I might walk** to work.

- See 15.5 for contractions with *would*.

WISHES ABOUT THE PRESENT AND FUTURE	
WISH CLAUSE	*THAT* CLAUSE
SIMPLE PRESENT	(*THAT* +) PAST FORM
I wish	(that) I **were** older. (that) I **didn't have** a cold. (that) you **were going** to the wedding. (that) you**'d help** me. (that) you **could come** with me.

- In sentences with *wish*, the *wish* clause is the main clause. The *that* clause is the dependent clause.
- In *that* clauses with the verb *be*, *were* is used for all subjects.
- *Could* and *would* (the simple past of *can* and *will*) are often used in the *that* clause.
- *That* is often omitted after *wish*, but it is always implied.
- Short answers with *wish* consist of a subject + *wish* clause + subject + *were/did*.

  A: Are you ready yet?   A: Does he have any money?

  B: No, I **wish I were**.   B: No, but I **wish he did**.