

- 2 a past activity that has caused a present result.
I've been working all day. (I'm tired now.)
Have you been crying? (Your eyes are red.)
Roger's been cutting the grass. (I can smell it.)
 The past activity might be finished or it might not. The context usually makes this clear.
Look out of the window! It's been snowing!
 (It has stopped snowing now.)
I've been writing this book for two years. (It still isn't finished.)
I'm covered in paint because I've been decorating the bathroom.
 (It might be finished or it might not. We don't know.)

7.6 Present Perfect Simple or Continuous?

- 1 The simple expresses a completed action.
I've painted the kitchen, and now I'm doing the bathroom.
 The continuous expresses an activity over a period of time.
I've got paint in my hair because I've been decorating.
 We use the simple if the sentence has a number or quantity, because the simple expresses completion. The continuous isn't possible.
I've been reading all day. I've read ten chapters.
She's been eating ever since she arrived. She's eaten ten biscuits already.
- 2 Some verbs have the idea of a long time, for example, *wait, work, play, try, learn, rain*. These verbs are often found in the continuous.
I've cut my finger. (One short action.)
I've been cutting firewood. (Perhaps over several hours.)
 Some verbs don't have the idea of a long time, for example, *find, start, buy, die, lose, break, stop*. These verbs are more usually found in the simple.
I've lost my passport.
Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

UNIT 8

Verb patterns

The infinitive

- 1 The infinitive is used after some verbs.
We've decided to move abroad.
I want to go home.
I'm trying to phone Pete.
She'd love to meet you.
- 2 Some verbs are followed by a person + the infinitive.
They asked me to help them.
I want you to try harder.
He told me to apply for the job.
- 3 *Make* and *let* are followed by a person + the infinitive without *to*.
She'll make you feel welcome.
I'll let you know when I'm coming.
- 4 The infinitive is used after some adjectives.
It's impossible to save money.
It's great to see you.
Pleased to meet you.
It was good to hear your news.

The -ing form

- 1 The -ing form is used after some verbs.
I enjoy reading history books.
He's finished washing the car.
I don't mind helping you.
We like walking.
He goes fishing at weekends.

- 2 Some verbs are followed by an object + -ing.
I hate people telling me what to do.
You can't stop me doing what I want.
I can hear someone calling.
- 3 The -ing form is used after prepositions.
I'm good at finding things.
He's afraid of being mugged.
We're thinking of going to Sweden.
I'm looking forward to meeting you.

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UNIT 9

9.1 CONDITIONALS

There are many different ways of making sentences with *if*. It is important to understand the difference between sentences that express:

- possible conditions = first conditional
- improbable conditions = second conditional
- impossible conditions = third conditional
- no condition = zero conditional

Possible conditions

If I see Dave, I'll tell him to call you.

This is a sentence about reality.

- If I see Dave ...* = a real possibility
... I'll tell him to call you. = the result of a possible situation

Improbable conditions

If I had the money, I'd buy a Mercedes.

This is a sentence which is contrary to reality.

- If I had the money ...* = not impossible. The reality is I don't have the money.
... I'd buy a Mercedes. = the result of an improbable situation

Impossible conditions

If I'd known you were coming, I'd have cooked you a meal.

This is a sentence about an impossible situation. It didn't happen, and now it's too late to change the result.

- If I had known ...* = impossible, because I didn't know.
I'd have cooked ... = the result of an impossible situation.

No conditions

If I get a headache, I take an aspirin.

If metal is heated, it expands.

These are sentences that are always true. They refer to 'all time', and are called zero conditionals. *If* means *when* or *whenever*.

9.2 Second conditional: improbable conditions

Form

if + Past Simple, would + verb

Positive

If I won some money, I'd go around the world.
My father would kill me if he could see me now.

Negative

I'd give up my job if I didn't like it.
If I saw a ghost, I wouldn't talk to it.

Question

What would you do if you saw someone shoplifting?
If you needed help, who would you ask?

Was can change to *were* in the condition clause.

If I	were rich,	I	wouldn't have to work.
If he		he	

Other modal verbs are possible in the result clause.

I could buy some new clothes if I had some money.

If I saved a little every week, I might be able to buy a car.

Use

- We use the second conditional to express an unreal situation and its probable result. The situation or condition is improbable, impossible, imaginary, or contrary to known facts.

If I were the president of my country, I'd increase taxes. (But it's not very likely that I will ever be the president.)

If my mother was still alive, she'd be very proud. (But she's dead.)

If Ted needed money, I'd lend it to him. (But he doesn't need it.)

- If I were you, I'd ... is used to give advice.

If I were you, I'd apologize to her.

I'd take it easy for a while if I were you.

- When the condition is understood, it is common to find the result clause on its own.

What would you do if you had lots of money?

I'd travel.

I'd give it all away.

I'd buy my mum and dad a nice house. They'd love that!

You'd give away your last penny!

- Would can express preference.

I'd love a cup of coffee.

Where would you like to sit?

I'd rather have coffee, please.

I'd rather not tell you, if that's all right.

What would you rather do, stay in or go out?

- Would can express a request.

Would you open the door for me?

Would you mind lending me a hand?

9.3 First or second conditional?

Both conditionals refer to the present and future. The difference is about probability, not time. It is usually clear which conditional to use. First conditional sentences are real and possible. Second conditional sentences express situations that will probably never happen.

If I lose my job, I'll ... (My company is doing badly. There is a strong possibility of being made redundant.)

If I lost my job, I'd ... (I probably won't lose my job. I'm just speculating.)

If there is a nuclear war, we'll all ... (Said by a pessimist.)

If there was a nuclear war, we'd ... (But I don't think it will happen.)

9.4 Third conditional: impossible conditions

Form

if + Past Perfect, would + have + past participle

Positive

If I'd (had) worked harder, I'd (would) have made more money.

They'd (would) have been here hours ago if they'd (had) followed my directions.

Negative

If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it.

If you'd listened to me, you wouldn't have got lost.

Question

What would you have done if you'd been me?

If the hotel had been full, where would you have stayed?

Use

We use the third conditional to express an impossible situation in the past and its probable result. It is too late! These things didn't happen.

If she'd known he was cruel, she wouldn't have married him.

My parents wouldn't have met if they hadn't studied at Oxford University.

9.5 might/could have done

Use

Might have done and could have done express possibilities in the past that didn't happen.

Thank goodness you went to hospital. You might have died.

She could have married anyone she wanted.

They are found in the result clauses of third conditional sentences.

If I'd told him I had no money, he might have given me some.

If I'd really wanted, I could have been a professional footballer.

Might have done and could have done can express criticism.

You might have told me it was her birthday!

She could have helped tidy the flat instead of going out!

9.6 should have done

Use

Should have done expresses advice for a past situation, but the advice is too late!

You should have apologized. He wouldn't have been so angry.

You shouldn't have said she looked old. She really didn't like it.

Should have done can express criticism.

You should have asked me before you borrowed my car.

UNIT 10

10.1 NOUN PHRASES

A noun phrase is a group of words before and/or after a noun.

book = noun	} = noun phrases
a book	
my book	
this book	
some books	
the book that I was reading	
my favourite cook book	

Grammatically speaking, these words are:

articles – *the, a/an*

possessives – *my, your, his, her ...*

demonstratives – *this, that, these, those*

determiners – *some, any, all, each, every ...*

relative pronouns – *who, that, which ...*

compound nouns – *notebook, address book ...*

10.2 Articles

Indefinite articles

The indefinite articles *a/an* are used:

- to say what something or somebody is.

This is a book.

Jane's a teacher.

I'm an optimist.

He's an idiot.

- to refer to a thing or a person for the first time.

She lives in a farmhouse.

He's going out with a model.

I bought a pair of shoes today.