

TITRE DE LA LEÇON: TENSE AGREEMENT (Conditionals/If-clauses)

Discipline : Anglais

Sous-discipline : Grammaire

Cycle : Lycée

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Niveau : Terminale D

To express a condition, we use conditionals or if-clauses. A condition is a situation or a circumstance. If a particular condition is true, then a particular result happens.

Example: If $x = 3$, then $2x = 6$

There are four basic conditionals: **zero conditional**, **first conditional**, **second conditional** and **third conditionals**.

1-Zero conditional

If-clause (Simple present), main clause (Simple present)

We use the zero conditional when the result of the condition is always true, like a scientific fact.

Examples: If you **press** the red button, the machine **turns off**.

If people **don't eat**, they **get** hungry.

2-First conditional/conditional sentence type 1

If-clause (Simple present), main clause (Future simple)

It is used to express a present or future real possibility.

Examples: If I **study** my lessons, I **shall pass** my exam.

If Paul **tries** this shirt, it **will suit** him.

3-Second conditional/conditional sentence type 2

If-clause (simple past), main clause (Present conditional: Should/would + verb)

It is used to express an unreal possibility.

Examples:

If I **lived** near my school, I **would be** in time for school. (But I didn't live near my school).

If he **drove** slowly, he **wouldn't have** so many accidents. (But he didn't drive slowly).

Note:

a) We use **were** after **If I/he/she/it**.

Examples: If I **were** rich, I should visit New York.

If **he were** good at English, he would get a scholarship.



b) The contracted form of **I would, he would, she would, we would, ...** is **I'd, he'd, she'd, we'd, ...**

Example: If he had enough money, **he'd** send his son abroad.

c) An if-clause can be placed at the beginning or the end of a sentence.

Example: If he ate enough, he'd get weight.

~~He'd get~~ weight if he ate enough.

d) Sometimes, we use **could** or **might** instead of **would**:

Examples: Mary **could** visit her friends if she cleaned the house.

If my father won the lottery, he **might** stop working.

4-Third conditional/conditional sentence type 3

If-clause (Past perfect), main clause (Perfect conditional: Should/would have + past participle)

It is used to talk about a past condition that did not happen. (**Both the condition and the result are impossible** now)

Examples:

If Paul **had called** before coming, he **would have found** them. (But he didn't call).

If Betty **had been** free yesterday, I **should/would have invited** her. (But she wasn't free).

Note: sometimes, we use **could have** or **might have** instead of **would have**:

Example: If you had travelled by bus, you **might have seen** the Mayombe forest.

Practice:

Exercise one: **Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs between brackets.**

1- If I a holiday, I'll go to Pointe-Noire. (**have/has/had**)

2- He near the Nile if he goes to Egypt. (**stays/stayed/will stay**)

3- If he Alice, his heart will beat. (**saw/sees/will see**)

4- If you walk in the rain, you wet. (**get/will get/got**)

5- You if you don't eat for twenty-four hours. (**not die/will not die/died**)



Exercise two: Put the verbs between brackets into the correct form.

- 1- You (play) better if you did not talk so much.
- 2- If Robert (be) rich, he would buy a plane.
- 3- If they (pay attention) to the teacher's advice, they would succeed.
- 4- He wouldn't suffer from tuberculosis if he (stop) smoking.
- 5- I should call the police if I (be) you.
- 6- Father would have been sad if Jane (not pass) her exam
- 7- If we had voted for him, he (build) a new school in the district.