UNIT 11

Grammar

Conditionals

Zero conditional (if/when/whenever + present tense, present tense)

General or scientific facts and definitions	*If you* ***burn*** *fossil fuels, carbon dioxide* ***is produced****.*

First conditional (if + present tense, will + bare infinitive / imperative)

Real conditions in the present or future and their results in the present or future	*If we* ***continue*** *to pollute our planet, future generations* ***will suffer****.*
To give conditional instructions	*If the people from Greenpeace* ***call****,* ***tell*** *them I'll call them back later.*

Watch out!

Other modals and semi-modals can be used instead of *will* in the result clause in first conditionals. These include *be going to, can, could, may, might, shall, should, have to* and *ought to.*
✓ *We* ***might*** *prevent disaster if we change the way we live now.*

Second conditional (if + past simple / past continuous, would + bare infinitive)

Hypothetical conditions in the present or future and their hypothetical results in the present or future	*What* ***would*** *the local government* ***do if*** *there* ***was*** *an earthquake in the area?*

Watch out!

Other modals can be used instead of *would* in the result clause in second conditionals. These include *might* and *could.*
✓ *If the weather was better, we* ***could*** *have a picnic.*

vs Grammar

- In British English, we can use both *was* and *were* after *if* with first and third person singular. *Were* is more common in a formal style. In American English, it is usual to use *were.*
  UK: *If I* ***was/were*** *a gambler, I'd put money on Jim being late.*
  US: *If I* ***were*** *a gambler, I'd put money on Jim being late.*
- In both British and American English, *were* is usually used in the phrase *If I were you, ...*

Third conditional (if + past perfect, would have + past participle)

Hypothetical conditions in the past and their results in the past	*A lot more people* ***would have been trapped*** *by the flood* ***if*** *there* ***hadn't been*** *a warning.*

Watch out!

Other modals can be used instead of *would* in the result clause in third conditionals. These include *might, could* and *should.*
✓ *If you hadn't had a lot of luck, you* ***could*** *have lost all your money.*

Mixed conditionals

Hypothetical conditions in the past and their results in the present	*You* ***might not be*** *in so much trouble* ***if*** *you* ***hadn't started*** *gambling.*
Hypothetical conditions in the present and their results in the past	***If*** *I* ***were*** *you, I* ***would have made*** *Paula buy her own lottery ticket.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Inverted conditionals

More formal form of the first conditional (with *should*)	***Should*** *the drought continue, many people will be forced to leave their villages. (= If the drought should continue ... / If the drought continues ...)*
More formal form of the second conditional	***Were*** *we* ***to*** *stop using fossil fuels tomorrow, it would still take decades for the planet to recover. (= If we were to stop ... / If we stopped ...)*
More formal form of the third conditional	***Had*** *Charles Darwin not visited the Galapagos Islands, he might never have developed his theory of evolution. (= If Charles Darwin hadn't visited ...)*

Watch out!

- When the verb to be inverted is negative, we put *not* after the subject.
  ✓ *Had we* ***not*** *attended the meeting, we would have had no idea of the council's plans.*
- When the *if* clause comes before the result clause, we usually separate the two clauses with a comma. When the result clause comes first, we do not use a comma.
  ✓ *If you share a car to work, you can save on energy.* ✓ *You can save on energy if you share a car to work.*

Other conditional structures

As/so long as	*We'll go up to the mountains this weekend* ***as long as*** *the weather's okay.*
Provided/Providing (that)	*You can have a pet* ***provided that*** *you promise to look after it properly.*
On condition (that)	*Applications for membership are accepted* ***on condition*** *that applicants are over 18.*
Suppose/Supposing	***Supposing*** *the price of oil tripled tomorrow. What do you think would happen?*
If it wasn't/weren't for + noun	*I think I'd be quite lonely* ***if it wasn't/weren't for*** *my dog, Buster.*
Were it not for + noun	***Were it not for*** *my dog, Buster, I think I'd be quite lonely.*
But for + noun	***But for*** *your help, I wouldn't have been able to quit gambling.*
If it hadn't been for + noun	***If it hadn't been for*** *your help, I wouldn't have been able to quit gambling.*
Had it not been for + noun	***Had it not been for*** *your help, I wouldn't have been able to quit gambling.*
If ... (should) happen to	***If*** *you* ***(should) happen to*** *see Davina, ask her whether she would look after the cats this weekend.*
If ... should	***If*** *you* ***should*** *see Davina, ask her whether she would look after the cats this weekend.*
If ... happened to	***If*** *you* ***happened to*** *see someone drop litter in the street, what would you do?*
If ... were to	*Do you think it would reduce pollution* ***if*** *the government* ***were to*** *introduce a new tax on petrol?*
If so/not	*Are you concerned about the environment?* ***If so****, you might be interested in joining Greenpeace.*
Otherwise	*You should have your air conditioner serviced,* ***otherwise*** *you'll waste a lot of energy.*
Unless	***Unless*** *governments act now, the environment is really going to suffer.*
In case of + noun	***In case of*** *fire, leave the building by the nearest emergency exit.*
In case	*Take a coat with you* ***in case*** *the weather gets worse.*

Other uses of if

To mean 'if it is true that'	***If*** *you were at the meeting, why didn't you raise the issue of recycling?*
To mean 'if you are willing to'	***If*** *you'll follow me, I'll show you into the park manager's office.*
To mean 'I'm saying this in case'	***If*** *you like zoos, the one in Singapore is fantastic.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Match to make sentences.

1	If you stay with us for three days, ...	A	we might get served a bit more quickly.
2	If you decide not to vote in the election, ...	B	give us a call and we'll come to pick you up.
3	If you didn't eat your lunch so fast, ...	C	very few people would obey the law.
4	If there were a few more people working, ...	D	you wouldn't get hiccups, would you?
5	If you forget to take your passport, ...	E	they have to go through a complicated procedure.
6	If the hire car isn't there when you arrive, ...	F	we'd be happy to give you a good reference.
7	If the city continues to expand, ...	G	I'm pretty sure they won't let you check in.
8	If the police didn't fine people, ...	H	more areas of natural beauty will be destroyed.
9	If you did decide to leave the company, ...	I	we'll have enough time to see a few sights.
10	If MPs wish to resign, ...	J	you can't really complain about the government.

B Rewrite using an appropriate conditional form, starting with the words given.

1 Sue didn't get me a birthday present, which is why I didn't get her one.
If Sue .....

2 We didn't pay them on time because they made a mistake with our order.
If they .....

3 The climate is undergoing such radical changes that scientists are worried.
If .....

4 Did California become an important area because they found gold there?
Would .....?

5 It's the sunset that attracts tourists to that place.
If it .....

6 There was a traffic jam on the motorway so I was late for my interview.
If there .....

7 I suggest you use a sunblock, and then you won't go red.
If I were .....

8 The accident happened as a result of the driver's not paying attention to the road.
If the driver .....

C Complete using the correct form of the verbs in bold. Add any other words you need.

17th March

So, today marks one year since I became a Park Ranger. If I (**1**) ..... (**do**) that then, I never (**2**) ..... (**have**) so many fantastic experiences. If you (**3**) ..... (**ask**) me now, I would say that I knew nothing when I started, but I've learnt a huge amount. In a typical day, I'll deal with complaints, check on the running of the park and lead guided tours, if any (**4**) ..... (**book**). If it's low season, I (**5**) ..... (**have**) time to check on forest management and fire control measures. It can get stressful at times, especially if visitors to the park (**6**) ..... (**get**) lost or injured. We had a case last week, which wouldn't (**7**) ..... (**happen**) if the woman involved (**8**) ..... (**be**) a bit more careful. You see, if you (**9**) ..... (**wander**) around a large National Park like this without a map, you're bound to get lost. This particular case might (**10**) ..... (**be**) so bad if it (**11**) ..... (**start**) raining. She was only wearing light clothes, so she was wet through and freezing when we found her. I dread to think what might (**12**) ..... (**happen**) if we hadn't!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Circle the correct word or phrase.

1 If we hadn't taken a wrong turning back there, we wouldn't **be / have been** in this mess now.
2 **Should / Would** you need any further assistance, please don't hesitate to ask.
3 **Had they not / Hadn't they** warned people in time, a lot more lives could have been lost.
4 If you **worked / had worked** last weekend when the boss asked you, then you wouldn't have to work this weekend.
5 Were all the members of staff to attend the conference, would the hotel **have / have had** enough rooms for everyone?
6 Had the government acted sooner, the general public wouldn't **be worrying / have worried** so much about the current situation.
7 Tom Cruise wouldn't be the star he is today **had he not / should he not have** made a good impression in his early films.
8 **Weren't we / Were we not** to build more roads, the traffic system would collapse by 2020.
9 It would be hard enough to pass the exam tomorrow even if you **went / had gone** to all the lectures this year.
10 You can contact the hotel manager on extension 142 **should / could** you need to.
11 **Shouldn't you / Should you not** receive confirmation of your flight by e-mail, please click the link below.
12 I would have asked the person for ID before I let him in, if I **were / have been** you.

E Complete using the words in the box.

case • condition • long • otherwise • provided • so • suppose • unless

1 Do you want a highly-paid career, and, if ..... , are you prepared to retrain? Contact us.
2 I'm quite happy to lend you money, as ..... as you make sure I get it back.
3 The village fair should be a great success, ... we don't have the same problems with the weather as last year.
4 It'd be great to see you on Saturday evening, ... you've already got other plans.
5 Could you go to the shop for me? I have to stay in in ..... the courier comes.
6 Your idea sounds fine in theory, but just ..... something goes wrong. What then?
7 Write your name at the top of your essay, ... I won't know which one's yours.
8 The judge allowed the accused to stay at home on ..... she reported to the police every morning.

F Write one word in each gap.

1 I would never be able to afford a new house if ..... wasn't for all the overtime I've been doing.
2 If it hadn't ..... for the fact that his uncle was a partner in the business, Angus would never have got the job.
3 How do you think you'd feel if someone happened ..... damage your car like that?
4 ..... for the kindness of a complete stranger, I would never have found the hotel.
5 I don't think I'd be surprised in the slightest ..... Paul were to suddenly announce that he was moving abroad.
6 Don't forget to mention the new schedule to Veronica if you ..... happen to see her this evening.
7 Football matches would be ideal family outings ..... it not for the danger of violence.
8 If it hadn't been ..... the children, I'm sure Trisha would have left Tom a long time ago.
9 I would have lost the game ..... it not been for some quick thinking.
10 If you ..... find the book I was asking you about, give me a call.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

G Rewrite the sentences, starting with the words given.

1 The only reason we won the contract was Debbie's fantastic presentation.
We wouldn't have .....

2 The eventual arrival of the ferry prevented a fight from breaking out amongst the passengers.
If it hadn't been for .....

3 None of the passengers was injured because of the driver's quick reaction.
But .....

4 We'll have to cancel the meeting if Wendy doesn't turn up soon.
Unless .....

5 Mr Jones would be quite lonely if he didn't have his daughter's visits.
Were it .....

6 Here's my phone number, because you might need it.
In case .....

7 Agree to be back by midnight and you can go.
Providing .....

8 Officer Hughes prevented the robbers from escaping.
Had it .....

H Choose the correct answer.

1 If you saw another student cheating in an exam, ... somebody?
A did you tell C would you tell
B do you tell D have you told

2 Make sure you mix the ingredients well, ... you might get lumps in your cake.
A unless C provided
B otherwise D supposing

3 Were ..... my dad, I would never have started playing tennis in the first place.
A it for C it to be for
B it hadn't been for D it not for

4 If I ..... hear from Nigel, I'll tell him you were asking after him.
A happened C should to
B should happen to D will happen to

5 The book would have been perfect ..... the ending.
A had it not been for C it hadn't been for
B it had not been for D hadn't it been for

6 If you hadn't taken the money, you ..... in prison now.
A wouldn't have been C haven't been
B hadn't been D wouldn't be

7 Do you think that if we ..... earlier we might not have missed the coach?
A have been leaving C had left
B left D have left

8 Unless Ray ..... here soon, I'm going to leave because I'm getting bored.
A doesn't get C won't get
B gets D will get

9 What if I ..... you that there's a good chance I can get tickets for the concert?
A were to tell C have told
B were telling D would to tell

10 If there ..... happen to be any reason for late delivery, please inform our Accounts Department.
A might C would
B could D should

LIVEWORKSHEETS

I **Write one word in each gap.**

CFCs

Had (**1**) ..... not been for the invention of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) in the 1920s, at least one environmental problem might have been avoided. In fact, (**2**) ..... they to be invented today, they (**3**) ..... no doubt be immediately banned. For fifty years, though, if you bought an air conditioner or a spray, there (**4**) ..... a good chance that it contained CFCs – and those CFCs are still around in the atmosphere.

If you (**5**) ..... able to travel into the upper layers of the atmosphere, you (**6**) ..... . see the chlorine and fluorine from CFCs breaking down the ozone (a form of oxygen). Ozone could damage your lungs (**7**) ..... you were to breathe it, but high in the atmosphere it performs the function of blocking ultraviolet rays from the sun, rays which can cause skin cancer if you (**8**) ..... exposed to them. We might (**9**) ..... have known about the process (**10**) ..... it not been for the work of two American scientists, Frank Rowland and Mario Molina. A number of industries fought against their conclusions, and might have won (**11**) ..... the evidence not been so clear. Rowland and Molina received the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1995 for their work on the ozone layer, but (**12**) ..... which we might today be facing an even greater problem.

J **Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and eight words, including the word given.**

1 Without this new diet, Henry would never have lost so much weight. **it**
Had ..... this new diet, Henry would never have lost so much weight.

2 Unless the plans change, we'll see you on the 19th. **no**
Provided ..... the plans, we'll see you on the 19th.

3 If you applied now, there's a good chance you would get the job. **apply**
Were ..... , there's a good chance you would get the job.

4 I didn't know about your problem so I didn't offer to help. **have**
If I'd known about your problem, ... to help.

5 It could get cold at night, so take some warm clothes. **in**
Take some warm clothes ..... cold at night.

6 I'd love to travel the world if I didn't have to pay off my mortgage. **having**
Were ..... to pay off my mortgage, I'd love to travel the world.

7 Ten years ago, people would have complained at seeing this film. **seen**
Had ..... , they would have complained.

8 Drivers are allowed to park here if they display a local resident permit. **condition**
Drivers are allowed to park here ..... they display a local resident permit.

LIVEWORKSHEETS