

CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

Conditional sentences in English generally consist of two parts: a **conditional clause**, sometimes called if-clause, and a **main clause**. The conditional clause states a condition, or a hypothesis, while the main clause describes the action or event that takes, or could take place, when the condition is fulfilled.



Exercise - read the following sentences. Is the condition likely to be fulfilled? Otherwise, is it unlikely, impossible or has it been fulfilled already?

- 1) If you meet Erika, can you please tell her to ring me?
- 2) Why did you give him your number if you didn't want to see him again?
- 3) If I had known how gossipy he is, I would never have told him about you and Lea.
- 4) What would you do if you were in my shoes?
- 5) She gets very angry if you wake her up.
- 6) Even if you don't agree, I'm going to buy that car.
- 7) You will never get there by 8 o'clock if you don't go out immediately.
- 8) If you are all on time, we will start at three o'clock.
- 9) If you were all on time, we could start at three o'clock.
- 10) If you had been on time, we could have started at three o'clock.
- 11) If we are all on time, why haven't we started yet?

Think it through - look again at the sentences above and think (we are going to discuss this in class, no need to write your answers):

- 1) When do we use a comma?
- 2) What tenses do we use to state likely, unlikely, impossible and true (fulfilled) conditions?