8 Grammar mixed conditionals; conditionals without *if*

Mixed conditionals

1 **Read about the hole in the ozone layer. Is the writer optimistic or pessimistic about the future?**

The ozone layer is part of the atmosphere that protects the Earth from the Sun's harmful ultraviolet (UV) light, which can cause many health problems. It is like a screen between us and the Sun. In the 1970s, scientists noticed that the ozone layer was being damaged: it was becoming thinner and there were holes above Antarctica and the Arctic. The holes were growing. If they continued growing, there could be terrible consequences for the planet. Scientists realised that the problem was being caused by the use of chemicals called CFCs. In 1989, a ban on CFCs was introduced. Luckily, by the mid-1990s, the ozone layer started to recover. It is expected to return to pre-1980s levels in around 2075.

2 **Match the sentences (1–3) with the conditional sentences with exactly the same meaning (a–c).**

1 CFCs are illegal, so the ozone layer is smaller.
2 CFCs were banned in 1989, so there was less damage to the ozone layer.
3 CFCs were banned in 1989 and now the hole in the ozone layer is smaller.

a If CFCs hadn't been banned in 1989, damage to the ozone layer would have continued.
b If CFCs were still legal now, the hole in the ozone layer would be much bigger.
c If CFCs hadn't been banned in 1989, the hole in the ozone layer would be much bigger right now.

3 **Match the sentences (a–c) in Exercise 2 with the correct type of conditional (1–3).**

1 a second conditional about the unreal present
2 a third conditional about the unreal past
3 a mixed conditional about both the unreal past and the unreal present

Grammar reference 8.2, p172

4 **Work in pairs. Think of some things that are bad for the environment (e.g. plastic, cars). Do you think our lives would be better or worse now if they had never been invented or discovered? Why?**

5 **Complete the mixed conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs.**

1 If UV light _____ (not cause) health problems, politicians in the past _____ (not take) the problem so seriously and _____ (not ban) CFCs.
2 Perhaps if global warming _____ (affect) people's health as directly as the ozone hole does, we _____ (stop) burning fossil fuels years ago.
3 There probably _____ (not be) as big a hole in the ozone layer now if CFCs _____ (never be) invented.

Conditionals without *if*

6 **Read the sentences (1–4). Then complete the rules (a–c) with the words in bold.**

1 **Provided (that) / Providing (that) / On condition that / As long as** we use renewable energy, we will create less pollution.
2 **Supposing / Suppose** you saw someone littering, what would you do?
3 We can't help wildlife **unless** we protect habitats.
4 We have to protect endangered species. **Otherwise**, they'll become extinct.

a _____, _____
= *if … not.*
b _____, _____, _____, _____
= *if and only if.*
c _____, _____
= *what if.*

Grammar reference 8.3, p172

7 **Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.**

1 What would you do if your house flooded?
_____ flooded, what would you do? (suppose)
2 Only call me if there is a problem.
_____ a problem. (unless)
3 We'll get solar panels – but only if they're cheap.
We'll get solar panels _____ too expensive. (provided)
4 You need a permit. Otherwise, you can't enter.
You can enter _____ a permit. (condition)
5 Many species can be saved, but only if we protect them.
_____ protect them, many species can be saved. (long)

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