CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

- Conditional Sentences:

  Main Clause + Subordinate Clause

  I shall stay at home if it rains.

- Common conjunctions: **IF** / **UNLESS**.

  Unless you start at once you'll be late.

- Tenses in conditional sentences.

  There are many different possibilities:

  Don't come unless I tell you to come.

  If you don't hurry and get there before five o'clock, he'll have left the office and gone home.

  If you have been travelling all night, you probably need a rest.

  If she promised to be here she'll certainly come.

  If you spent the night on the train you probably need a rest.

  If that was what he told you he was telling lies.

  If he hadn't come in when you arrived, he won't come in at all this morning.

  If he hadn't left any message when you called, he probably intends to be back before you leave.

- Foreign learners are often taught that there are three kinds of conditional sentences:

  1. (Possible) (present simple - future simple):

  If he runs he'll get there in time.

  2. (Hypothetical) (past simple - conditional simple):

  If I had a map I would lend it to you.

  If England had a hot climate, the attitude would be different.

  3. (Impossible) (past perfect - conditional perfect):

  If you had worked harder, you would have passed your exams.

- SHOULD

  A more formal way of talking about a possible future situation is to use SHOULD in the subordinate clause:

  If anything happens, I will return immediately =
  If anything should happen, I will return immediately.

- WERE (subjunctive)

  In the subordinate clause, WERE is often used instead of WAS, especially after I:

  If I were as big as you, I would kill you.

- Putting the verb first.

  In formal or literary English, if the first verb in an *if*-clause is SHOULD, WERE, or HAD, this verb is sometimes put at the beginning of the clause and *if* is omitted:

  Were it all true, it would still not excuse their actions.

  Had I known that there was never to be another opportunity, I would have filmed the occasion.

CONJUNCTIONS:

- **Whether ... or**

  You must go tomorrow whether you are ready or not.

- **Provided (that) / Providing (that)** (con tal que, siempre que, a condición de que)

  You can stay here provided you are quiet.

- **But for** (a no ser por)

  My father pays my fees. But for that, I wouldn't be here.

- **Suppose / Supposing / What if** (¿qué te parece si...? ¿y qué tal si...? ¿y si...)

  Suppose the plane is late?
  Supposing the plane is late?
  What if the plane is late?

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Concessive

*Even if (the *condition* is unlikely with a possibly unexpected result).

*Even if you've got the qualifications (*unlikely*), you won't get the job.*

*Even though (the *condition* is true and the result unexpected).

*Even though you've got the qualifications (*true*), you won't get the job.*

Adversative

*Otherwise (sino, pues de lo contrario)

We must be back before midnight, otherwise we'll be locked out.