



**CLASS IX-X**  
**ENGLISH GRAMMAR**  
**PART II**  
**CHAPTER 6**  
**THE CONDITIONAL TENSE**

**NOTES**

**Conditional Sentences** are sentences expressing **factual implications** or **hypothetical situations** and their **consequences**. They are so called because the validity of the **main clause** of the sentence is conditional on the existence of certain circumstances, which may be expressed in a **dependent/subordinate clause** or may be understood from the context. **These sentences have two parts: the if-clause and the main clause.**

**There are different types of Conditional Sentences.**

If the verb in the 'if-clause' is in the Present Tense, the verb in the Main Clause is a combination of 'shall/will + base form of verb'.

**Example:** If you *work* hard, you *will succeed* in life.

**(Note: There are other variations of this type.)**

If the verb in the 'if-clause' is in the Present Tense, the verb in the Main Clause may be a combination of 'may/might + base form of verb'. It expresses possibility.

**Example:** If there is a blockade, the examination may/might be postponed.

If the verb in the 'if-clause' is in the Present Tense, the verb in the Main Clause may also be a combination of 'must/should or some other expression of command/request/ advise + base form of verb'.

**Example:** If you want to join us, you must/should avoid bad habit.

If the verb in the 'if-clause' is in the Present Tense, the verb in the Main Clause may also be in the Present.

**Example:** If you heat ice, it melts.



**If the 'if- clause' is in the Past Tense, the verb in the main clause is also in the Past Tense.**

**Example:** If you worked hard you would succeed in life.

**In certain cases, if the 'if- clause' is in the Past Tense, the verb in the main clause is also in the Past Perfect Tense.**

**Example:** If you had worked hard, you would have succeeded.

If I had known her earlier, I might have helped her.

If I had supported her, she could have been saved.

**(Note: In place of 'would', 'could' and 'might' may also be used)**

**The Past Perfect Continuous can also be used in the 'if- clause'.**

**Example:** I was doing regular exercise. If I hadn't been doing it, I would have been suffering.

#### **Note: Other Variations**

**If + were inversion of subject and auxiliary:** Occasionally, *if +was* can be used but in formal English '*were*' is more common.

**Example:** If I was/were given the book, I would take it.

A variation of the above rule (i.e. *If + were* inversion of subject and auxiliary rule): When the auxiliary is placed first, 'were' and not 'was' is used.

**Example:** Were you Ram, you would not do it.

#### **Unless + affirmative verb:**

**Example:** Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.

'**If only + present tense/ will**' expresses hope.

**Example:** If only he comes in time, everything will be solved.

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