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Beginner lessons for Conditionals

Master the Basics of Conditionals in English!

DEFINITION

> Conditionals are sentences that describe possible situations and their outcomes. They often use 'if' to connect the condition and the result.

KEY CONCEPTS

Zero Conditional

Used for general truths or facts, it uses the present tense in both clauses.

First Conditional

Describes real and possible situations in the future, using 'if' + present tense and 'will' + base verb.

Second Conditional

Used for hypothetical situations, it employs 'if' + past tense and 'would' + base verb.

Third Conditional

Describes unreal situations in the past, using 'if' + past perfect and 'would have' + past participle.

Mixed Conditionals

Combines different times in the condition and result, often mixing second and third conditionals.

EXAMPLES

→ If it rains, we will stay indoors.

→ If I were rich, I would travel the world.

→ If she had studied, she would have passed.

MEMORY TIPS

★ Remember: 'Zero' is for facts, 'First' is for real future, 'Second' is for dreams.

★ Use 'would' for hypothetical and 'will' for real possibilities.

★ Think of 'if' as the key that opens the door to outcomes.

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ Confusing tenses in the clauses, like using present instead of past.

✗ Using 'will' in second conditional sentences.

✗ Mixing up the structure of third conditionals.

QUICK RECAP

Conditionals express possibilities and their outcomes using specific structures. Familiarize yourself with zero, first, second, and third conditionals to communicate effectively.