CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

(if"sentences„)

There are ٤ main types of if sentences in English, often called conditionalsentences.

These sentences are in two halves (clauses):

(if clause (theif part

the other part where you can use words such as can, will, may, might, couldand would(main clause)

ZERO CONDITIONALis a structure used for talking about general truths -- things which always happen under certain conditions (note that most zero conditional sentences will mean the same thing if "when" is used instead of "if"). The zero conditional is used to talk about things which are always true -- scientific facts, general truths, and so on.

if clause main clause

If + Present Simple Present Simple

If you heat the water to ١٠٠ degrees, it boils.

1st CONDITIONALis a structure used for talking about possibilities in the present or in the future. The first conditional is used to talk aboutthings which are possible in the present or the future -- things which may happen.

if clause main clause

If + Present Simple Future Simple, can, may

If you study hard, you will pass the test.

2nd CONDITIONALis a structure used for talking about unreal situationsin the present or in the future. The second conditional is used to talk about things which are unreal (not true or not possible) in the present or the future -- things which don't or won't happen.

if clause main clause

If + Past Simple would, could, might

If I had a million dollars, I would buy a big house.

3rd CONDITIONALis a structure used for talking about unreal situationsin the past. The third conditional is used to talk about things which DID NOT HAPPEN in the past. If your native language does not have a similar construction, you may find this a little strange, but it can be very useful. It is often used to express criticism or regret.

if clause main clause

If + Past Perfect would/could/might have + Past

Participle

‹If I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam. I failed the exam

because I didn't study

hard enough

If the "if" clause comes first, a comma is usually used. If the "if" clause comes

– second, there is no need for a comma

.degrees ١٠٠Water boils if you heat it to

.You will pass the test if you study hard

.I would buy a big house if I had a million dollars

.I would have passed the exam if I had studied harder