

Review of first conditional sentences

Oxford Living Grammar explains how grammar works and when to use it. The exercises use real-life situations to practise grammar in context. This lesson reviews the use and formation of first conditionals (*If you study hard, you'll pass your exams*) and *unless, otherwise* and *or else* in the context of giving advice.

Lesson Length 45 mins

- Aims**
1. to review and practise using the first conditional
 2. to give advice using first conditionals, *unless, otherwise* and *or else*.

Preparation You will need a copy of the following for each student:

Activity worksheet: **Review of first conditional sentences** (from *Oxford Living Grammar Upper-intermediate* page 71)

1 LEAD-IN: MAKING CHOICES

- Ask your students if they know what the word 'dilemma' means (a situation in which you have to make a difficult decision, often between two options). Can they think of any dilemmas they've faced, or they've heard about?
- Describe the following dilemma: Tina has an important exam tomorrow and needs to study, but her friend has offered her a free ticket to see her favourite band in concert. Should she stay at home and study, or see the band?
- Encourage the students to imagine what might happen in both situations: if she studies, and if she goes to see the band. What would the consequences be? Encourage the students to use *might/could/may* or first conditionals.
- Put two columns on the board, one for 'Studying' and one for 'Seeing the band'. Write their ideas in the appropriate columns e.g. *Studying: She'll pass the exam. She'll miss the concert and feel bad.* What do they think she should do?
- Tell the class they're going to use first conditionals to discuss decisions and to give advice.

2 REVIEW OF THE FIRST CONDITIONAL

- Ask the students to tell you what two parts are needed to form a first conditional sentence (an if-clause and a result clause). Elicit the different tenses that can be used in the if-clause (present simple, present continuous, present perfect) and the options for the result clause (*will, be going to, be likely to, can, could, may, might, should, must*). Can they give you examples based on Tina's dilemma? Write them on the board:

If-clause

result clause

If Tina **goes** to the concert, she **might not pass** her exam.

- Remind them that the result clause can go first. If so, no comma is necessary.

Result clause

if-clause

She's **likely to pass** the exam if she **stays** at home and studies.

- Ask them what's wrong with the following sentence:
If she will go to the concert, she'll fail the exam.
- Cross out 'will' in the if-clause and correct 'go'. When is it acceptable to use *will* in this way? (When you want to add emphasis to a repeated and undesirable action.) Write a correct 'will' example on the board as a reminder:
If she ~~will~~ goes to the concert, she'll fail the exam.
If you will keep on drinking coffee, you'll never get to sleep!

3 MORE CONDITIONALS: UNLESS, OTHERWISE, OR ELSE

- Can students complete the sentence 'Tina will fail her exam...' without using *if*? (...unless she studies.) Ask for more sentences about Tina using *unless*. (For example: She won't see her favourite band unless she goes to the concert. She might fail unless she studies.)
- Can they complete the following sentences? (1. otherwise 2. or else)
 - 1 Tina should study _____ she's likely to fail the exam.
 - 2 Tina shouldn't go to the concert, _____ she might not do well in the exam.

Explain that *otherwise* and *or else* mean 'because if not', and can be used in first conditionals.

4 CONTROLLED PRACTICE: ACTIVITY WORKSHEET

- Hand out the worksheet and tell the students to read the emails quickly. Ask them what Cassia and her grandpa are discussing. (what Cassia is going to study at university) What has Cassia decided to study? (history) What does her grandpa advise? (she should study something more practical like accountancy)
- Have the students do the exercise individually, then elicit answers in open class.

ANSWERS 1 You'll have a job for life ~~unless~~ if you ~~will~~ become an accountant. 2 You won't have anything to fall back on if unless you've gained a professional qualification by your early twenties. 3 I believe that if unless you ~~will~~ study something you're passionate about, you won't find the motivation to keep going. 4 You'll see quite a few jobs for history graduates in teaching and research, and also in the media, if ~~unless~~ you look in the newspapers. 5 Come soon, if or else ~~unless~~ we'll forget what you look like!

5 FREE PRACTICE: GIVING ADVICE

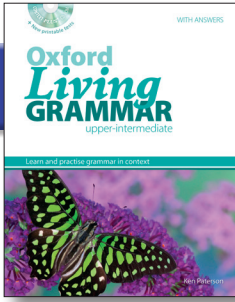
- Tell the students they are going to use the first conditional to give advice to your friend Simon, who has emailed you about his dilemma. Simon is a waiter and doesn't earn very much money. He has to pay his rent, but he also needs to fix his car, which he uses to drive to work. He has the money for one thing. Which should it be? Put them into pairs to discuss Simon's dilemma. Encourage them to think of consequences and solutions e.g. *If his car is broken, he can take the bus to work. If he doesn't pay his rent, his landlord might throw him out.*
- Give the students five or ten minutes for their discussions, then ask them for their opinions. Get them to vote on what Simon should do. Why do they think that? Encourage them to use the target language.

HOMEWORK

- Have the students write an email to either Simon or Tina, giving advice on their dilemmas.

EXTRA HELP

- **Do your students need more help with first conditionals?** Direct them to the presentations on pages 70 and 72 of *Oxford Living Grammar Upper-intermediate*.
- **Do your students need more practice using first conditionals?** Direct them to the exercises on pages 70-73 of *Oxford Living Grammar Upper-intermediate*.



Activity worksheet: Review of first conditionals

Giving advice and warnings

Cassia's grandfather emails her. Cross out either one or two words in the bold sentences.



Dear Cassia

You're growing up so fast! Your mother has told me about your plans to study history at university. It's your life, I know, but it worries me. **You won't get a job very easily unless if you will do a more useful subject.**⁰ Why don't you study something practical instead, like accountancy? **You'll have a job for life unless if you will become an accountant.**¹ That may seem boring to you at the moment, but you don't know what life will bring. **You won't have anything to fall back on if unless you've gained a professional qualification by your early twenties.**²

Hi Grandpa

Thanks for your message, and I hope you're well. I understand your concerns, but I love reading and studying history. **I believe that if unless you will study something you're passionate about, you won't find the motivation to keep going.**³ I have thought about careers, too. **You'll see quite a few jobs for history graduates in teaching and research, and also in the media, if unless you look in the newspapers.**⁴ Perhaps we can talk on the phone – or why don't you come over? We haven't seen you for ages. **Come soon, if or else unless we'll forget what you look like!**⁵ Only joking.

