

- (d) *Future Perfect Continuous* expresses an action that will be in progress in the future and end then.

### Examples

I will have been staying here for five years if I stay till 1990.

#### ■ Use of tense in conditional sentences

Conditional sentences are classified into three groups.

#### I. Probable condition (cause-effect) The verb structure here is as follows :

If you *study* hard you *will pass*. present future

In sentences expressing a natural law both the verbs are in the present tense.

If you boil water it becomes vapour (not 'it will become'). If the main clause is in the imperative mood, then both the verbs are in the present tense.

If you see John, ask him to meet me (not 'you will ask him').

#### II. Improbable condition

When the sentence expresses a hypothetical but possible fact it is called 'improbable' or 'opposed to known conditions'. Here the verbs are subjunctive in the 'if' clause and conditional in the main clause.

### Examples

1. If I *told* you, you *would do* it.
2. If I *knew*, I *would tell* you.
3. If I *had* it, I *would give* you.

[**Note:** that 'had' in the third sentence is lexical and not auxiliary]

4. If I *were* you, I *would accept* the offer.

#### III. Impossible condition

This is also known as 'time barred' condition. The verbs here are past perfect and conditional perfect in the 'if' and main clauses respectively.

### Examples

- (i) If I *had known*, I *would have come*.
  - (ii) If I *had had* the money, I *would have given* you.
- [**Note:** that in the second example the first 'had' is auxiliary and the second lexical].

### Adverb

An *adverb* is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective or another adverb. It indicates time, place, manner, and so on.

### Examples

He is leaving *tomorrow* (when-time)

He went *away* (where-place)

He walked *groggily* (how-manner)

[In the case of the question 'how', the answer must describe a verb if it is an adverb.

Otherwise, it is a complement describing a noun.]

(1) He works *hard*. (how-hard) adverb.

(2) This word is *hard*. (how-hard) adjective.

[In sentence (1) the verb is modified while in sentence

(2) the noun 'word' is described]

■ The adverb has an affinity for the verb or the verb equivalent (infinitive or gerund) that is closest to it. Hence the position of the adverb is important.

### Examples

1. He withdrew all the money before the bank crashed *luckily*.
2. He *luckily* withdrew all the money before the bank crashed.

[In sentence (1) 'luckily' modified 'crashed' meaning that the crash was lucky (an absurd connotation) while in sentence (2) it modifies 'withdrew', meaning that the withdrawal was lucky.]

### Preposition

This is a 'bridge word'. It establishes a relation between a subject (noun) and the object of the preposition (another noun). Some common prepositions are in, on, above, below, to, with, upon, etc.

### Prepositional Phrase

This is a phrase that has a preposition and its object.

### Examples

1. The man *on the bicycle* is tired.
2. He will come *in a minute*.

In sentence (1) the prepositional phrase describes the man. So it is an adjective while in sentence (2) it modifies the verb 'come' and therefore an adverb.

### Appropriate Prepositions

Certain words take certain prepositions always. Such prepositions are called appropriate prepositions.

### Examples

According *to*, confident *of*, capacity *for*, descended *from*, etc.