Conditional and time clauses
I. Conditional clauses
II. Time clauses
III. Other ways of expressing condition and time relationships

I. Conditional clauses

1. Conjunctions

if	jestliže
unless (if …. not)	jestliže ne

Examples:
*I´ll be able to finish the report **if** you help me.*
*I won´t be able to finish the report **if** you don´t help me.*
*I´ll take the job **if** I don´t get a better offer.*
*I won´t be able to finish the report **unless** you help me.*
*I´ll take the job **unless** I get a better offer.*

2. Five types of conditional clauses

Type 1 is used about a situation that is true at any present or past time.

> *If water **is** frozen* (dependent clause)*, it **expands*** (independent clause).
> *If the experiment **failed**, we **tried** again.*

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Present tense	**Present tense**
Past tense	**Past tense**

if = jestliže

Type 2 is used about a possible situation in the present.

> *If you **come** across a difficult problem, **discuss it/you can/could/should discuss** it with your supervisor.*

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Present/present perfect tense	**can/could/might/should**
	Imperative

if = jestliže

Type 3 is used about a situation likely to occur in the future if the condition is fulfilled.

> *If you **work** hard, you **will pass** the examination.*

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Present tense	**Future tense**

i**f = jestliže**

Remember: no "will" after if!

Type 4 **is used about a present or future imaginary situation.**

> *If you **worked** hard, you **would pass** the examination.*
> *If you **went** to that conference, you **might meet** Professor Brown.*
> *If this new approach **were applied**, the result **would be** different.*
> *If the temperature of the reaction **were raised** by 10°C, the rate of*
> *the reaction **would double**.*

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Past tense	**would + infinitive**
	could/might/should + infinitive

if = kdyby

Remember: no "would" after if!
"Was" is common with **"I, he, she, it, there, a singular noun"** in spoken English. In formal writing **"were"** is used instead.

Type 5 **is used about a situation that might have happened in the past but did not.**

> *If you **had worked** hard, you **would** not **have failed**.*
> *If you **had gone** to that conference, you **could have presented** your paper there.*

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Past perfect tense	**would have + the –ed form**
	could/might/should have + the –ed form

if = kdyby

Remember: no "would" after if!

Of the five types of conditional clauses the **first three** are **common in academic writing.** They are mostly used in the main body of the paper.

Examples:
Type 1: *If the Siegel condition is false, the CORDIC Pipeline waits until the size-reduced element is forwarded.*
Type 2: *If the power consumption is too high, increase the value of L and go back to step 3.*
Type 3: *If the input frequency is greater than the value defined by (11), the system will present slope overload.*
Types 4 and 5 are rather **rare** in academic writing.
Type 4: *It is clear that there would not be any asymmetry if there were no contribution from the second-harmonic and the difference frequency.*

Notes:

- If the **dependent clause precedes the independent clause,** it is separated by a **comma;** if it follows, it is not.

> *If the experiment fails**,** we will have to repeat it.*
> *We will have to repeat the experiment if it fails.*

- The **past perfect** in the dependent clause may also be used together with **"would + infinitive"** in the independent clause (combination of types 4 and 5.)

> Compare: *If you **had been** more careful, you **wouldn´t be** in trouble now.*
> *If you **had been** more careful, you **wouldn´t have been** in trouble .*
> (at that time)

- In **types 1 and 2, "if"** has almost the same meaning as **"when/whenever".**

> *If/When the experiment fails, you have to repeat it.*

  In **type 3** there is a **difference.**

> *If you go to that conference, you will meet Professor Brown.*
> (= it is not sure whether you will go; in Czech: Pojedeš-li/Jestliže pojedeš ..)
> *When you go to that conference, you will meet Professor Brown.*
> (= it will very likely happen; in Czech: Až pojedeš ….)

- When **"if = whether"** (zda), it can be followed by **"will" + infinitive.**

> *I am not sure if/whether our paper will be accepted.*

3. Other conditional expressions (mostly used in formal English)

suppose/supposing (that) = za předpokladu, že; jestliže; co když/kdyby

> ***Supposing (that**) the results seem unconvincing, we can always
> repeat the experiment.*
> ***Suppose** you didn´t get the job, what would you do?*

assuming (that) = za předpokladu, že

> ***Assuming (that)** the operational amplifier is ideal, the following
> relationship holds.*

provided/providing (that) = za předpokladu, že (if the condition is fulfilled)

> *We will continue our research **provided (that**) we get a grant.*
> *The nuclear programme can be abandoned **providing (that)**
> other adequate sources of energy are available.*

in case = pro případ, že/pro případ čeho

> *You´d better find another room **in case** a larger screen is
> needed. (so as to be safe if something happens)*

but for = nebýt čeho/koho

> ***But for** your help, we would not have finished the project on
> time.*

II. Time clauses

1. Conjunctions

when	když; až	since	od té doby, co
while	když, zatímco	until/till	až, dokud ne
whilst (formal)	když, zatímco	as	když, jak
whenever	kdykoli	as soon as	jakmile
after	když, poté, co	by the time	než
before	(dříve) než	once	jakmile, jak (jednou

2.Tenses in time clauses
When the time clause refers to **the present or the past,** the verb has **the same tense that would be used in a single clause.**

*When he **left** school, he **was** fifteen. (He left school. He was fifteen.)*
*Whenever I **am** in England, I **visit** our partner university.*
*He **waited** until everybody **had gone**.*

When the time clause refers to **the future, the present/perfect tense** is used.

Dependent clause	Independent clause
Present/Present perfect tense	**Future tense/Imperative**

*Don´t start the experiment until everybody **is** here.*
***Switch off** the lights before you **leave** the lab.*
*When I **finish**/After I **have finished** my PhD studies, I **will work** in a research institute.*
*As soon as I **receive**/**have received** my degree, I´**ll go** abroad.*
*I **will not** stop trying until I **obtain**/**have obtained** the expected result.*

Note: The **present perfect tense** is used to stress **completion of an activity.**

since

Independent clause	Dependent clause
Present perfect tense	**Past tense**

I **haven´t seen** him since we **graduated** (in 2010).

Notes:
- When **"when"** relates to **the time we want to know** (= kdy,) it can be followed by **"will" + infinitive. Present continuous** is also often used here.
    *He wants to know when **they will come/they are coming**. (= kdy)*
- **"since"** and **"as"** are also used in **reason clauses** as formal alternatives to **because.**
    *The solution is promising **since/as** it can work during transients. (= protože)*

The meaning of the following sentence can be interpreted in two ways:

> **As** *prices rise, the demand for higher wages increases.*
> (= the demand increases because prices rise or: the demand increases at the
> same time as prices do)

- **"while"** also expresses **contrast** (= kdežto, zatímco)
  > *George was interested in research while his brother was more practically*
  > *orientated.*

See also A Remedial Course in English Grammar: Clauses (Clauses of reason/cause and
Clauses of contrast and concession).

III. Other ways of expressing condition and time relationships

1. if/when + an adjective
   If/When necessary, we can change the date of the meeting. (= if/when it is necessary)

2. when + the –ing form
   When considering the total losses, we can see that these losses are negligible. (= when we
    consider …)

3. if/when + the –ed form
   When completed, the road will link these two cities. (= when the road is completed …)

4. the –ing form
   Substituting (12) in (13), one obtains …. (= if/when one substitutes …)

5. having + the –ed form
   Having finished the measurements, they started to analyse the values obtained.
   (= after/when they had finished …)

6. the –ed form
   Used economically, the available resources will cover the costs. (= if/when the resources
   are used economically)

7. if/when + a prepositional phrase
   If/When in doubt, discuss the problem with your supervisor. (= if/when you are in doubt)

8. after, before, on, in, since + the –ing form
   On entering the room, he switched on the light. (= as soon as he entered)
   In entering the room he slipped. (= while he was entering)

EXERCISES

I. Fill the gaps with the following words. Use each of them only once.

as soon as	whenever	by the time	before	unless
till/until	but for	once	while	whenever
in case	if	as		

1. He has had a number of different jobs ……………………….. he left school.
2. We have to wait here …………………………… he comes.
3. ………………………….. you finish/have finished the experiment, come and see me.
   I have an urgent message for you.
4. She left …………………….. I had a chance to speak to her.
5. ……………………… he was trying to repair the machine, he burned his finger.
6. ……………………… you make/have made a decision, you shouldn´t regret it.
7. The phone was ringing but ………………………….. I picked it up, it stopped.
8. He blames me ………………………… things go wrong.
9. I can´t leave the lab …………………… I know that all the devices have been switched off.
10. He tripped on a step …………………………. he was entering the hall.
11. Take my key …………………… the door is locked.
12. ……………………… you get up at 7, you won´t miss the lecture.
13. ………………………… the unexpected interruptions, we would have finished much earlier.

II. Fill in the correct forms of the verbs given in the right-hand column.

1. I am sure he ……………………… the problem if you explained it to him.   **understand**
2. If I had known the programme of that workshop, I ……………………………
   there.   **go**
3. We are prepared to work overtime if it …………………….. necessary.   **be**
4. That firm will employ our graduates provided they ……………………………..
   good language and computer skills.   **have**
5. They want to know if we …………………………….. the project on time.   **finish**
6. If you had asked him, he ……………………………………. you.   **help**
7. He ………………………….. two jobs since he graduated.   **have**
8. We are prepared to work overtime provided we ………………………… paid.   **get**
9. If the equipment of that plant ………………………… not so obsolete, the
   power consumption would not be so high.   **be**
10. Let us know if you ………………………….. to the meeting.   **come**
11. When the water ……………………………, turn off the kettle.   **boil**
12. Call me as soon as you …………………………….. the experiment.   **finish**
13. Don´t do anything until I ……………………….. you**.**   **tell**
14. When the plant …………………………… , it will employ 100 people.   **be built**
15. They want to know when the plant ……………………………… .   **be built**
16. When the experiments …………………………………, data processing can start.   **be completed**

III. Past tense or present perfect tense in the following sentences? Use the verbs in capitals to fill the gaps.

1. He …………………………………………… for this company since he ……………………………………

school.   WORK/LEAVE
2. Since when ……………………… he ……………………. for that company?   WORK
3. I ……………………… him at a party last night. I …………………………….
   since.   MEET, SEE
4. We ……………………… friends ever since we ………………………
   at school together.   BE, BE
5. He ……………………………… a member of the research team since 2010.   BE
6. I ……………………. with the project since I ………………………………
   working here.   INVOLVE, START

IV.
Underline the conjunctions and translate them into Czech.
1. As time passed, things started to look better.   ………………………………
2. I´m afraid I can´t help you as I´m not familiar with this type
   of machine.   ……………………………..
3. Since you aren´t able to do it yourself, you should ask for help.   ………………………………
4. It´s two years now since we met in London.   ……………………………
5. While my colleague was gathering data, I was working on a program
   for processing them.   ………………………………
6. He preferred fundamental research while his colleagues were
   more interested in applied research.   ………………………………

V. Fill in the words given below.

but for   provided/providing (that)   in case   supposing   unless

1. You can´t get a job ……………………………… you´ve got experience.
2. Everybody can join the course ……………………………. there is space available.
3. ……………………… something goes wrong, what will you do?
4. ………………………. your warning, I´d have burnt my fingers.
5. I´ll be in my office …………………………. you need me.

VI. Translate
1. Nabídne-li mi univerzita místo docenta, vezmu ho.
………..
2. Kdyby mi univerzita nabídla místo docenta, vzal bych ho.
………..
3. Kdyby mi univerzita byla nabídla místo docenta, byl bych ho vzal.
………..
4. Jestliže propadneš u zkoušky, budeš ji muset opakovat.
………
5. Kdybys propadl u zkoušky, musel bys ji opakovat.
………
6. Nevím, kdy se vrátím.
…….
7. Prodiskutuji s ním ten problém, až se vrátí.
……

8. Neudělám žádné rozhodnutí, dokud nebudu mít víc informací.

………..

9. Jsem u té firmy od té doby, co jsem absolvoval Západočeskou univerzitu.

………

10. Ten problém se komplikuje (stává komplikovanějším), (s tím) jak se ho snažíte řešit.

………

11. Připojím se k tomu projeku za předpokladu, že budu pozván.

………..

12. Nezamykej tu laboratoř pro případ, že tam někdo bude chtít pracovat po pracovní době.

………

VII. Translate the following sentences using the reduced time clause (when + -ing/-ed or in/on + -ing).

1. Když je článek napsán dobrou angličtinou, má lepší šanci na přijetí.

………

2. Dvě věci se musí zvážit, když se zabýváte tímto problémem.

………

3. Když kupujete nějaké nové zařízení, je nejlépe požádat odborníka o radu.

………..

4. Když se prášek smíchá s vodou, vytvoří hladkou kaši.

………..

5. Když se tato data pečlivě zanalyzují, mohou být velmi užitečná pro náš výzkum.

………

6. Nezapomeň zhasnout, než odejdeš z laboratoře.

………

7. Jaká byla tvá reakce, když jsi uviděl tu chybu?

…….

8. Když (přitom když) se snažil ochránit svého přítele, riskoval vlastní život.

………