

Forming Conditional Sentences

As oracións condicionais teñen dúas cláusulas: cláusula subordinada (*Dependent Clause*), cláusula principal (*Independent Clause*)

Dependent Clause	Independent Clause
"If" Clause	"Result" Clause
Condition	Result
If you stay in the sun too long,	you will get sunburned!
If you drink too much whiskey,	you will get sick.
If you study hard and practice a lot,	your English will improve.

As cláusulas pódense inverter. Se a “*dependent (If) clause*” vai primeiro na frase, debemos separalas cunha **coma**. Non usamos coma se a “*independent clause*” vai ao principio.

You will get sunburned if you stay in the sun too long!
You will get sick if you drink too much whiskey.
Your English will improve if you study hard and practice a lot.

A diferenza de significado entre a primeira forma e a segunda forma é o propósito da afirmación.

Specific Warning:	If you stay up too late, you'll be really tired tomorrow.
General Statement:	You'll be really tired tomorrow if you stay up too late.

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Questions with Conditions

You can, of course, ask questions with conditions:

Yes-no Questions

Does Homer get angry if you forget to feed him?

Would it hurt the car if you put apple juice in the gas tank?

Does it hurt your computer if you leave it on all night?

Information Questions

What happens to your computer if you leave it on all night?

What would happen if you put apple juice in the gas tank?

Unreal: What would you do if you got the job? **Real:** What will you do if you get the job?

Remember: The main thing to consider when you are writing conditional sentences is whether or not the condition (IF clause) is real or possible.

Unreal condition:

If I were the king of the world, I would make it easy to write English.

Real condition:

If I'm your teacher next year, I'll give you some writing exercises.

How to write an argumentative essay: The “for and against” composition.

Always collect your ideas on a mind-map before starting to write. You must really be aware of what you are going to write before you write the first sentence. It is wrong to change your attitude in the middle of the text, as if you were writing an inner monologue.

INTRODUCTION:

A recent event/ a personal experience (it is perfectly okay to invent one), a quotation of a scientist, a topical newspaper article, a TV programme, statistics. A question to be answered.

You may want to give a brief explanation of the historical background or define central terms. You may want to state your opinion firmly and clearly at the beginning or you may prefer to invite the reader to look at the pros and cons together with you.

What comes to my mind when discussing....is...

Almost every day you hear....

Today we are repeatedly confronted with the problem of....

Some (experts/people/of my friends) say...

A friend of mine said...

Recently I have read that....

When discussing.....I remember....

Therefore one should discuss..../ask the question if..../it is interesting to weigh up the pros and cons of.../the benefits and drawbacks of..../the arguments in favour of and against...

Spontaneously it seems to me that....

Quite frankly, I tend to think that...

MAIN BODY

Arguments for the side you don't agree with.

Firstly/In the first place....

Let us start by considering...

Let us first consider the question of...

I should like to begin with...

The first obvious advantage/disadvantage of...

Secondly....

Moreover....

Furthermore....

Another thing is....

Another point in favour of/against... is...

Always add examples / explanations / illustrations / reasons / consequences... It is essential to form paragraphs. Each paragraph must have a key sentence (- usually at the beginning). Don't write any one-sentence-paragraphs.

Examples:

Take for example.....Take for instance...

One example out of many is...

Just look at....

This idea can best be illustrated by an example...



Arguments for the side you agree with.

So far we have only talked about the advantages. What about the disadvantages?
So much about the advantages. There are also a number of disadvantages that must not be overlooked.
Let us now turn to the drawbacks of...
Now it would also be interesting to

Secondly....
Moreover....
Furthermore....
Another thing is....
Another point in favour of/against... is...

Always add examples / explanations / illustrations / reasons / consequences... It is essential to form paragraphs. Each paragraph must have a key sentence (- usually at the beginning). Don't write any one-sentence-paragraphs.

Examples:
Take for example.....Take for instance...
One example out of many is...
Just look at....
This idea can best be illustrated by an example...

ENDING:

In the conclusion clearly express your opinion. Sum up your main arguments in your own words but do not repeat any phrases that have already been used. Do not introduce new arguments here. Make your ending personal. Think about possible consequences and effects of your opinion. Express your hopes for the future. if you can establish a natural connection to the introduction of the essay that produces a good effect.

In conclusion, let me say that....
All things considered, I must say that...
From all this, one must conclude that...
Perhaps the future will show that....
I hope that in the future.....

Some hints:

- Avoid unjustified generalisations by using "may" and "might".
- Avoid bringing disadvantages that are merely the opposite of the advantage.
Disadvantage: Air travel is expensive. Disadvantage: Air travel is cheap.
- Clearly indicate where your paragraphs start and where they end. You may want to leave a line empty between paragraphs.
- The quality of an essay very much depends on whether a writer has something to say and expresses his or her thoughts and opinions clearly and logically.
- It helps to know how to use certain linking devices to connect sentences logically. Don't use them slavishly, though, or even wrongly, especially words like "furthermore" or "moreover".
- Beware of using BUT too often!.
- Present your own opinion, and don't aim to express what you think your teacher's opinion might be. It's interesting to disagree.