

Grammar Terms - Conditional Sentence, Conjugation, Conjunct, Coordinate structure

Conditional is a traditional label for the modal auxiliary verbs *would* and *should* when they do not express obligation. The name is given because sentences with these auxiliary verbs often imply an unstated condition.

For example, the sentence 'I would like a drink' appears to imply something like 'If I had a choice'. In practice, however, it is merely a polite way of asking for a drink.

Conditional sentences

Any sentence of the form *if... (then)* is a conditional sentence. There are basically two kinds of conditional sentences. In an open conditional sentence the fulfilment of the condition is real and possible.

Examples are given below:

If I get a promotion, I will buy a car.

If you heat ice, it melts.

You will have to work hard if you want to succeed.

In a counterfactual conditional, the condition is seen as contrary to fact.

If you spoke better English, you could get a good job. (Here we are talking about unreal conditions because the person doesn't speak English well.)

Conjugation

The label conjugation refers to the practice of changing the form of a verb for grammatical purposes.

For example, the English verb *write* may appear as any of *write*, *writes*, *wrote*, *written* or *writing*, depending upon its grammatical position in a sentence.

Conjunct

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The label applied to an adverbial which connects its sentence to neighbouring sentences. Examples are: *moreover, nevertheless, however, finally etc.*

Coordinate structure

Any grammatical construction in which two or more grammatical units are connected with a conjunction like *and, or* or *yet*.