LESSON 60

316 probable improbable probably

Is it probable that it will snow next summer?

No. it isn't

probable that it will snow

next summer; it's very improbable

Are you probably going to finish all of the stages of the Callan Method?

Yes, I'm probably going to

finish all of the stages of the Callan

Method \sim No, I'm probably not going to

finish all of the stages of the Callan Method



possibility

imagine

construction

police

police station

park

1st Conditional

"If" + present + "will do" = real possibility

If I go to the park tomorrow, I will play football

This sentence means that I think there is a <u>real possibility</u> that I will go to the park tomorrow, and, if I do, I will play football. The construction of the 1st conditional is "If" + present + "will do". It communicates that we think something is a real possibility.

"If + past + "would do" = only imagining

If I went to the park tomorrow, I would play football

This sentence means that I think it is <u>very improbable</u> that I will go to the park tomorrow; I am <u>only imagining</u> it. The construction of the 2nd conditional is "If" + past + "would do". It communicates that we are only imagining something.

It is important to understand that, in the 2nd conditional, we use the past simple after "if", but we are not thinking about past time; we are thinking about now, the future or general time. For example:

If I had £1 million (now), I would buy a house

If we went to the cinema tomorrow (future), we would see a film

If they were American (general time), they would speak English

When do we use the 1st conditional? We use the 1st conditional to communicate that we think something is a real possibility Give me an example, please. If he sees his friend, he will say "hello" We use the 2nd When do we use the 2nd conditional? conditional to communicate that we are only imagining something If she went to the North Pole, Give me an example, please. she would feel very cold. If they were stronger, they would be able to lift the table If you feel tired tonight, will you go to bed early? Yes, if I feel tired tenight, I will go to bed early

312 If you felt ill tomorrow, would you go out? No, if I felt ill tomorrow, I wouldn't go out; I would stay at home

If you study hard, will you learn to speak English well? Yes, if I study hard, I will learn to speak English well

If you stopped studying, would your English get better?

Stopped studying, my English

wouldn't get better; it would get worse

If you had £1 million, what would you buy?

If I had £1 million, I

would buy ...

If you came here next Sunday, would you be able to have a lesson?

No, if I came here next Sunday,

I wouldn't be able to have a lesson

Why not?

Because the school is closed on Sundays

If you swam in the sea in the middle of winter, would you find the water warm?

No. if I swam in the sea

in the middle of winter. I wouldn't

find the water warm; I would find it cold

If you go on holiday next year, where will you go?

If I go on holiday next year, I will go to ...

If you found something in the street worth a lot of money, would you keep it or would you take it to the police station?

If I found something in the street worth a lot of

money, I would keep it/take it to the police station

If you sent a letter and forgot to put the address on it, would it arrive?

No, if I sent a letter and forgot to

put the address on it, it wouldn't arrive

313



I'll listen to the news/ on a different radio station today./ When I feel ill, I go to bed./ When I feel thirsty,/ my favourite drink is water./ The difference between a ship and a boat/ is that a boat is small/ whereas a ship is large./ I want a credit card/ from a bank with a branch/ in every town/ in the country./ Most horses are not wild./ The river is very shallow,/ but we can go over by bridge/ if you like./ I generally have two eggs for breakfast.

