

## FUMC ESL 2-23-2023 High Intermediate and Advanced Lesson

**Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Finish this sentence: If I had more time, I'd like to...**

**Grammar: On Monday's lesson there was a sentence, "Would it be OK if I took you to lunch?"**

**Someone questioned why we use "took" the past tense of "take" to talk about something we are doing in the future. There is a very long, complex answer to that question and it has to do with conditionals.**

Conditionals are phrases or sentences that use if (or sometimes when) to talk about a possibility. There are four types of conditionals and different verb tenses are used with each one. If you are interested in learning about the details of conditionals, there are many websites that will explain them in great detail. Just google "conditionals" and you will get lots of information.

I am not going to attempt to explain conditionals to you today. I don't really think learning all the complex rules about conditionals helps you to use the correct verb tense. I think you will learn better from listening to conditional sentences used.

**A pair of students should read the conversations and explain the meaning. Tell which phrases are conditional.**

**Edna:** I have to go home now. I must study for my final exam. If I fail my exam, I will have to take the class again.

**Sammie:** I understand. I wish I could go back to school. I didn't do well because I didn't study. If I had a chance to go back to school, I would study more.

**Carol:** I'm going home now. Is it OK if I take one of these sandwiches with me?

**Ed:** By all means. If you're hungry, take two. We have plenty.

**Jim:** Why does the video keep pausing? It's really annoying.

**Linda:** The video pauses if the signal is poor.

**Matt:** Did you know Shelly is dating Tim? I think Tim is too old for Shelly. Tim is ten years older. Shelly is only 15.

**Stu:** I agree with you. If Shelly were my sister, I would not let her go out with Tim.

**Matt:** And if I were Tim, I wouldn't date girls ten years younger.

**Deb:** I might sell my house.

**Sara:** Why?

**Deb:** If I sold the house, I would have enough money to go to France for a year.

**Sara:** Is that what you really want? I thought you and Larry were getting very close. I'm surprised you would leave for a whole year.

**Deb:** I don't know for sure. I'm thinking about it. It all depends on Larry. If he asks me to marry him, I will stay here. We will live in my house. But if he doesn't ask to marry me, I will sell the house and move to France.

**Sara:** I wouldn't sell the house if I were you. It will become more valuable every year. I would use my savings to live in France. Your house will be appreciating in value while you are gone.

**Judy:** My dad smokes a lot. My mom hates it.

**Laura:** I don't blame her. If you smoke a lot of cigarettes, you get lung cancer. She doesn't want him to die.

**Judy:** My dad said it is impossible to quit. He is addicted. My mom begged him. She told him if he stopped smoking he would feel so much better. My mother even promised Dad a new car if he quit smoking. But that wasn't enough to make him stop.

**Fay:** If we arrive in the morning, we will have time to visit the zoo.

**Lynn:** I don't like zoos. I hate to see all the animals locked up in tiny cages. If I owned a zoo, I wouldn't keep animals in small cages. I would build big habitats where they could roam around.

**Nora:** If I had cleaned the house this morning, I could have gone to the movie with my friends.

**Sam:** Instead, you are staying home cleaning the house while we all go to the movie.

**Tina:** I have an awful headache. If I hadn't had that glass of wine, I wouldn't have a headache.

**Jan:** I'm sorry your head hurts. I have some aspirin in my purse. Would you like some?

**Tina:** I don't like to take medicine, but if you think aspirin will help my headache, I will take some.

**Grandma:** Jack comes by every weekend if he has time.

**Friend:** That's nice. I know you enjoy seeing him. He's a good grandson.

### **Discussion questions**

1. Sammie wishes he had a second chance to go to school. What is something you wish you had a second chance at?
2. Stu says he wouldn't let his sister date someone ten years older. How do you feel about that? Does Stu have a right to tell his sister who to date?
3. Sara advises Deb not to sell her house. Why? What would you do?
4. What is Judy's mom trying to do? Would you try to stop your friend from doing something that might harm their health?
5. What would Lynn do if she owned a zoo? Do you like zoos or do you feel like Lynn?
6. Tina doesn't like to take medicine, but in this case, she will. Do you feel the same way Tina does about taking medicine?
7. Why is Jack a good grandson? Have you ever felt guilty about your relationships with your family? It can be hard to get along with everyone in your family. Do you have any family members you don't get along with?

### **The Stranger**

The man was a stranger. He didn't look like he fit in at this re-sale shop. Most of the people in the shop had on worn out jeans and shirts with holes in them. They were working people making the minimum wage or homeless people trying to find a cheap blanket that would help them stay warm in the winter. They were all looking for bargains.

But this man, this stranger, looked different. His jeans looked new and his shirt was a nice thick material. His hair was combed nicely and his beard was neatly trimmed. I looked hard at him. What was he doing here? He could afford to buy new things at the big department stores. He didn't need to shop at a re-sale store. I tried not to stare at him, but I was suspicious of him. What was he up to? Usually rich folks didn't give a thought about poor folks. And I didn't trust him. I kept an eye on him in case he started bothering someone.

The stranger just stood there looking around. Then, suddenly, the he made his move. He walked up to an older man with a scraggly beard. The man wore scraped up working boots and a faded, paint-stained flannel shirt. He was standing in front of a shelf with used overalls like painters wear. But he hadn't

decided what he wanted yet. I imagine he was trying to decide what he could afford. The stranger said, "Excuse me, may I ask you a question?" The old man nodded. I moved closer so I could hear what he was going to ask. "Would you rather have \$500 for yourself, or \$1,000 that you had to give away to other people?"

The old man smiled shyly. "Well, that's an easy question because everyone I know is poor. I would like to have \$1,000 that I can give away. I couldn't be happy if I had money and others didn't." The stranger smiled and handed the man ten \$100 bills. The old man's mouth dropped open. "For real," he said. "You're giving me a thousand dollars to help people?" "Yep," answered the stranger. "Now, let's go give it away."

They started walking up and down the aisles. The stranger didn't say a word. He walked a few feet behind the man. The old man pulled out a hundred dollar bill one at a time. When he found someone who looked like they could use a hundred dollar bill, he handed it to them. The people who received the money were shocked. They couldn't believe it. They thanked the old man and hugged him. Many of them told him how much it meant to them. A young woman with a toddler and a baby sitting in her basket cried. She told the old man her husband had been laid off from his job and they had no savings. Her job paid enough money for the family to eat, but winter was coming and the kids needed warm clothes. She was trying to figure out how she could buy clothes for them with her meager salary. Another man said his wife was real sick. The doctor at the free clinic had given her a prescription, but they couldn't afford to get it filled. Now he could get her the medicine she needed.

By the time the old man handed out the last hundred, he was beaming. He felt like the richest man on earth. He had just made ten people incredibly happy. He wanted to thank the stranger for choosing him. But when he turned around, no one was there. The stranger had quietly slipped away.

**There is some vocabulary in this story you might not know. Talk about the meaning of these words:**

re-sale store  
minimum wage  
suspicious  
keep an eye on someone  
scraggly beard  
faded  
paint-stained  
afford  
smiled shyly  
his mouth dropped  
for real  
shocked  
laid off  
meager salary  
beamed