

LESSON 60

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 ~ No, I'm probably not going to finish all of the stages of the Callan Method



See Chart 8

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 real possibility 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.

2nd Conditional

“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 very improbable that I will go to the park tomorrow; I am only imagining 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”

When do we use the 2nd conditional?

We use the 2nd conditional to communicate that we are only imagining something

Give me an example, please.

If she went to the North Pole, 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 tonight, I will go to bed early