

Extension exercises

Chapter 19: Conditional sentences

Exploring language

Over a period of time, jot down conditional sentences that you come across listening to the radio and television or reading books, magazines, newspapers and advertisements.

- 1 What proportion of these are two-part conditional sentences which conform to one of the four basic 'types'?
- 2 What proportion of these contain only a conditional clause?
- 3 What proportion of subordinate clauses use *if* as opposed to other conjunctions or no conjunctions at all?
- 4 What other features which don't conform to one of the four basic types do you come across?
- 5 Can you generalise about any differences in the kinds of conditional sentences that occur in different kinds of speaking or writing (for example, newspapers as opposed to novels, formal interviews or informal 'chatting')?

Course materials

Identify where in a series of coursebooks attention is paid to conditional sentences.

- 1 At what levels do they teach the different conditional types?
- 2 To what extent do they teach 'variant' forms?
- 3 To what extent do they teach the basic elements of all conditional sentences (for example, the meaning of *if* and the tenses we use to express 'unreal' meaning)?
- 4 Do they pay attention to the functions we often use conditional sentences to express?
- 5 Do they include exercises and materials to help learners identify and get their tongues round awkward combinations of auxiliary verbs?
- 6 Compare one of the books from this series with a book from another series. What differences are there in the way they teach conditionals?