



THE CONDITIONAL MOOD

Twenty-third lesson – Vingt-troisième leçon

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1. DEFINITION

- The conditional is a linguistic **mood**, a categorization that indicates the purpose of a phrase.
- The imperative mood, for example, expresses a command.



1. DEFINITION

- The conditional can be found across various tenses.
- This lesson summarises the uses of **the conditional in the present tense.**



2. USES.

2.1 The conditional mood is generally used to express three values:

- i) A conditional desire, the French conditional of **courtesy**:
 - *Je voudrais un café, s'il vous plaît.*
 - *I would like a coffee, please.*



2. USES

- ii) An **obligation** or **duty**:

- *Nous **devrions** travailler plus.*
 - *We should work more.*



2. USES

- iii) An event that would happen if something else were possible (*if* clauses): it depends on a condition:
 - *Si tu aimais la lecture, je t'offrirais tous mes livres.*
 - *If you liked reading, I would offer you all my books.*



2. USES

2.2 Certain verbs are commonly used in the conditional mood, sometimes more often than in the indicative mood.

- *Ex.: Vouloir (to want)*
- ***Je voudrais** (I would like)*
rather than
 - ***Je veux** (I want).*



2. USES

- These are modal verbs, used to diminish the strength of a command or request.



2. USES

○ **Je pourrais**

- *Je **pourrais** avoir votre autographe?*
- *Could I have your autograph?*

○ **Je devrais**

- *Vous **devriez** arrivez à l'heure!*
- *You should arrive on time!*

○ **Je voudrais**

- *Je **voudrais** un café, s'il-vous-plaît.*
- *I would like a coffee please.*



2. USES

2.3 The verb **aimer**

- i) The verb **aimer** is used to express a desire, sometimes one that cannot be fulfilled
 - *J'aimerais rencontrer Barack Obama.*
 - *I would like to meet Barack Obama.*



2. USES

- *Nous aimerions visiter la Pyramide du Louvre.*
- *We would like to visit the Louvre's Pyramid.*



2. USES

- ii) With an adverb of emphasis when we wish to intensify the idea/desire
 - *Nous aimerions bien/vraiment/tant visiter la Pyramide du Louvre!*
 - *We would [really] like/love to visit the Louvre's Pyramid [so much].*



2. USES

- iii) To express a polite request
 - *J'aimerais parler au directeur.*
 - *I would like to speak with the director.*



3. FORMS

- The conditional mood is formed by adding the appropriate subject ending to the infinitive form of the verb.
- Verbs from the **-re** group drop the final **e**; **-er** and **-ir** verbs don't change.



3. FORMS

Person	Subject pronoun	Subject ending	translations
1 st sg.	Je	-ais	<i>I should / would / could...</i>
2 nd sg.	Tu	-ais	You <i>should / would / could...</i>
3 rd sg.	Il/elle/on	-ait	He/she <i>should / would / could...</i>
1 st pl.	Nous	-ions	We <i>should / would / could...</i>
2 nd pl.	Vous	-iez	You <i>should / would / could...</i>
3 rd pl.	Ils/elles	-aient	They <i>should / would / could...</i>



3. FORMS : OVERVIEW

- To illustrate, see the examples of **donner** (*to give*), **réussir** (*to succeed*), and **attendre** (*to wait*) :

	Donner <i>(to give)</i>	Réussir <i>(to succeed)</i>	Attendre <i>(to wait)</i>
Je	donner <u>ais</u>	réussir <u>ais</u>	attendr <u>ais</u>
Tu	donner <u>ais</u>	réussir <u>ais</u>	attendr <u>ais</u>
Il/elle/on	donner <u>ait</u>	réussir <u>ait</u>	attendr <u>ait</u>
Nous	donner <u>ions</u>	réussir <u>ions</u>	attendr <u>ions</u>
Vous	donner <u>iez</u>	réussir <u>iez</u>	attendr <u>iez</u>
Ils/elles	donner <u>aient</u>	réussir <u>aient</u>	attendr <u>aient</u>

3. FORMS

- There are a number of irregular verbs in the conditional, most of which share their irregular stems with the **simple future** tense.
- Note also that the simple future and the conditional have similar forms.



3. FORMS

- Different forms of **aller**:

	Present	Simple future	conditonal
Je/j'	vais	irai	irais
Tu	vas	iras	irais
Il/elle/on	va	ira	irait
Nous	allons	irons	irions
Vous	allez	irez	iriez
Ils/Elles	vont	iront	iraient

C'est tout pour aujourd'hui!

Au revoir!

Merci!

