

Conditionals

Class objective:

I will be able to learn the usage of conditionals in Dutch.

Concept A: Introduction to conditionals

A conditional is used to describe a hypothetical situation. The conditional always consists of two elements:

- the condition
- and the result if the condition is fulfilled.

Examples:

- Dat zou ik niet doen als ik jou was.

I would not do that if I were you.

- Als hij niet zo verlegen was, zou hij meer vrienden hebben.

If he were not so shy, he would have more friends.

Like in English, we have a few situations where conditionals are used:

1. The condition is a possibility and the result is yet to happen.
2. The condition is an event that probably will never happen and the result describes what will happen if the unlikely condition will be fulfilled.
3. The condition is about an event in the past that did not happen. The result tells what would have happened if the event took place.

Concept B: The condition is a possibility and the result is yet to happen.

Als ik deze opdracht af heb, kan ik eerder naar huis.	If I finish this task, I can go home earlier.
Als zij komt, zal ik blij zijn.	If she comes, I will be happy.

Concept C: The condition is an event that probably will never happen and the result describes what will happen if the unlikely condition will be fulfilled.

Als ik zakte voor de test, zou ik verdrietig zijn.	If I failed the test, I would be sad.
Als ik de race gewonnen had, zou ik heel blij zijn.	If I won the race, I would be really happy.

