

Si Clauses

Conditions (“If” clauses)

“Abriendo Paso – Gramática” pg.
225

Real vs. unreal conditions

A **real condition** is one which may actually come about or at least is viewed as a possibility; thus, in Spanish, the **indicative** is normally used both **in the “if” clause and in the main part of the sentence**:

- **Si Marcos está su cuarto, está escuchando música.** *If he is in his room [he may actually be in his room], he is listening to music.*
- **Si nieva mucho, podré esquiar.** *If it snows a lot [it may really snow], I can ski.*
- *Note that the English versions of the above conditions suggest the indicative by the lack of hypothesis-suggesting words such as “would”, and by not using the past tense to refer to a present-time situation.*

Real vs. unreal conditions

In contrast, an **unreal or contrary-to-fact condition** is one which will not come about or is viewed as being completely hypothetical.

In this case:

the “if” clause is always in a past subjunctive tense,

and

the main verb is in a conditional tense.

Real vs. unreal conditions

Present or Future time situations:

The imperfect subjunctive is used in the “if” clause,

and

The conditional in the main clause

- Si yo **fuera** rico **compraría** un coche.
If I were rich [I am not rich] I would buy a car.
- ¿Qué **harías** si **fueras** presidente?
What would you do if you were president? [you aren't]
- Si Juana **estuviera** aquí, ¿le **dirías** la verdad?
If Juana were here [she isn't here], would you tell her the truth?

Real vs. unreal conditions

Past time situations:

Past perfect subjunctive
in the “if” clause,

and

The conditional perfect in
the main clause

Si la hubiera visto, habría dicho

algo. *If I had seen her [I didn't see her] I would have said something.*

Si hubieras venido, te habrías

divertido mucho. *If you had come [you didn't come] you would have had a great time.*

¿Habrías ido a la fiesta si yo la

hubiera planeado? *Would you have gone to the party if I had planned it? [I didn't plan it*

Importante

- The present subjunctive is NOT used after **si** (“if”)!
- In unreal conditions the standard **pattern** is:

a past subjunctive in the **“if” clause**
and

a conditional tense in the **main clause**:

Importante: Ejemplos

<u>“if” clause</u>	<u>main clause</u>	<u>time aspect</u>
<p>si + imperfect subjunctive</p> <p>Si hablaras, _____</p> <p><i>If you <u>spoke</u>,</i></p>	<p>→ conditional</p> <p>te creerían.</p> <p><i>they <u>would believe</u></i></p> <p><i>you.</i></p>	<p>Present / future time actions</p> <p>(but expressed by the past tense in both English and Spanish)</p>
<p>si + past perfect subjunctive</p> <p>Si hubieras hablado, _____</p> <p><i>If you <u>had spoken</u></i></p>	<p>→ conditional perfect</p> <p>te habrían creído.</p> <p><i>they <u>would have believed</u> you.</i></p>	<p>past time actions</p> <p>(expressed by previous-past time tenses both in English and Spanish)</p>

There are frequent tip-offs in English sentences that the conditional/past subjunctive combination is required in the corresponding Spanish sentence.

- Use of the **past tense** (“spoke”) **in the “if” clause to indicate a present/future situation.** (“If you *spoke* [right now]...”).
- Use of the word **“would” in the main clause to indicate conjecture for present/future time.** (“...they *would* believe you [now or in the future]”).
- Use of **“would have” to in either clause to indicate conjecture/hypothesis in past time.** (“...they *would have* believed you”).

Como si...

- The:

imperfect subjunctive

- Le preguntaron a José **como si supiera** todas las respuestas (No las sabe todas) They asked José as if he knew all the answers (He doesn't know all of them)

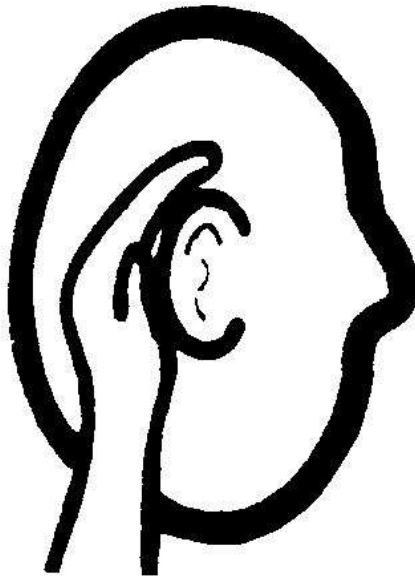
Or

the pluperfect subjunctive

- Me habló **como si yo hubiera hecho** algo inapropiado. (No lo hice) He spoke to me as if I had done something inappropriate. (I didn't)

is also used after **como si**, meaning **as if...**

- **Note the following pattern of tenses and moods in “if” clauses and in the result clauses:**



- “If” Clause

- **present** (indicative)

- Si el libro **es** caro, —————→

- *IF the book is expensive,* —————→

- Result Clause

- **present** (indicative)

- Yo no lo **compro**

- *I don't buy it*

- “If” Clause

- **present** (indicative)

- Si el libro **es** caro, —————→

- *IF the book is expensive,* —————→

- **Result clause**

- **Future** (indicative)

- Yo no lo **compraré**

- *I won't buy it*

- “If” Clause

- **imperfect** (subjunctive)

- Si el libro **fuera** caro,

- *IF the book were expensive,*

- **Result Clause**

- **Conditional** (indicative)

- Yo no lo **compraría**

- *I wouldn't buy it*

- “If” Clause

- **pluperfect**

- (subjunctive)

- Si el libro **hubiera sido** caro,

- *IF the book had been expensive expensive,*

- **Result Clause**

- **conditional perfect**

- (indicative)

- Yo no lo **habría comprado**

- *I wouldn't have bought it*