INTEGRATED GRAMMAR

Hand Out

Module-1/2

A clause is a group of words which includes a subject and a finite verb. A clause functions as an adjective, an adverb or a noun.

In English grammar, a conditional clause is a type of adverbial clause that states a hypothesis or condition that may be real or imagined. Its form uses a conditional clause in the simple present and the main clause in the future tense. The main clause will use a modal like would, should, could, will, may, might or can. Here are some examples:-

- 1.If I sleep now,I will be up all night.
- 2.I'll help you if you promise to work hard.
- 3.If I had the money, I would lend you.
- 4.If I study ,I'll pass the exam.
- 5.If I studied, I would pass the exam.
- 6.If I had studied, I would have passed the exam.
- 6, If we had practiced, we could have won the match.

All the above sentences have two parts -a main clause and a subordinate clause.

For example-In the first sentence, the two parts are-

- 1.I'll be up all night-Main clause
- 2.If I sleep now-Subordinate clause

Points to remember:

- 1.All the subordinate clauses in the above sentences begin with 'if'. Conditional clauses are also called 'if clause' as they begin with 'if'. It can come before or after the main clause.
- 2.The conditional clauses express conditions. In the sentence one event follows from the other or depends on the other.

In other words ,what we express in the main clause, depends or is conditional on what we express in the subordinate clause.

- 3.We can usually change the order of clauses in conditional sentences. For ex:we can say: If you promise to work hard ,I'll help you. We can also say: I'll help you if you promise to work hard.
- 4.In general we separate the two clauses by a comma if we begin with an 'if' clause. We don't use a comma when we begin with the main clause.
- 5.We use conditionals for situations that might happen in the future or situations that might never happen. We use conditionals for action in the past that can't be changed.