



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ

English I

Course Unit 3: Reading and Grammar 2

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Grammar 2: Modal verbs – If sentences – Relative clauses

• Modal verbs: Will, can, could, may and might

We can use *will, can, could, may* or *might* to talk about possibility or non-possibility in the future. They are followed by an *infinitive* (e.g., He *might be*, They *will see*). The negative is formed by adding ‘*not*’ after the modal (e.g. He *might not be*, They *will not see*) and the question uses inversion (e.g. *Might he be? Will they see?*)

Look at these examples.

- The value of shares *will* increase. (It is something **certain** or very likely)
- If many shoppers want the ham in that price, the shopkeeper *may* increase the price. (It is **possible** but **not certain**)
- A shopper *might* accept the price of the ham, or not. (It is **possible** but **not certain**)
- A market *can* be the grocery store, or a nationwide or worldwide market. (It is **usually true**)
- “Where is he?” “He *could* be at work.” (It is **possible** but **not certain**)

Could is also used to show ability in the past. For example:

- Alan Turing believed he *could* break the Enigma code using advanced logic and mathematics.

A. Correct the mistakes in the underlined parts of the sentences.

1. I’m sure we not will have any problems.
2. I’m not sure where Juan is. He will be in the canteen.
3. If we take more time, we don’t might make so many mistakes.
4. If you don’t send me the brochure, I don’t can place an order.
5. We may be work late on Friday.

• If sentences

When we want to talk about a situation and its *possible* result, we can use an **If sentence (or a conditional)**. We can follow this form:

If + present simple, modal + infinitive (e.g. *If you invest your money, you may make a profit*)

If the result is very certain, then you can use this form:

If + present simple, will + infinitive (or present simple) (e.g. *If people put their money in the bank, it will earn interest / it earns interest*)

- #### B. Complete these sentences with a modal (*will, can, may, or might*) and a verb of your choice.

1. If a price of a good goes down, consumers more of it.
2. If people buy shares, they part of the ownership of a company.
3. If people believe a company doesn't do well, they its shares.
4. You to the bank if you want to take a loan.
5. Stockholders gain money if the value of their shares
6. If a situation with many sellers and few buyers continues in the stock market, it a crash.

• **Relative clauses**

A relative clause is a sentence which describes or gives extra information about a noun. Relative clauses begin with words such as *who, which, that* or *where*.

***Who* is used to describe people. For example:**

- *Sellers are people **who** already have shares but want to sell them.*

***Which* or *that* are used to describe things. For example:**

- *Many sellers and few buyers is a situation **which/that** can create a crash in the stock market.*

***Where* is used to talk about places. For example:**

- *Any area **where** sellers and buyers meet to set prices can be a market.*

***When* is used to talk about time. For example:**

- *A famous crash took place in the New York Stock Exchange in 1929, **when** a lot of people lost a lot of money.*

C. Join the sentences below, using relative clauses with *who, which* (or *that*), *where* or *when*.

1. They've bought shares of this company. This company is one of the most successful companies in the country.
2. You should keep your money in a bank. There it will gain interest.
3. The New York Stock Exchange crashed in 1987. That year we left the US.
4. This bank closed. Many people worked there.
5. People might buy more shares. They believe that the value of their shares will increase.

D. Complete the following sentences using modals, relative clauses, and your own ideas.

1. The University is a place
2. A good English learner is someone
3. You will remember lectures better if
4. If you go on an [Erasmus](#) course,
5. [TOEFL](#) or [IELTS](#) are tests

6. (write your own sentence using one or more of the following: ***if, who, which, where, when, may, might, could***)

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Answers to the exercises

Exercise A

1. we will not (we won't)
2. He may / might be
3. we might not make
4. I will not (won't) be able / I can't
5. may work

Exercise B (suggested answers)

1. may/might/will buy/purchase
2. will have/get/acquire
3. may/might/can sell
4. can go
5. goes up/increases
6. can/may/might/will lead to/cause

Exercise C

1. They've bought shares of this company, which is one of the most successful companies in the country.
2. You should keep your money in a bank, where it will gain interest.
3. The New York Stock Exchange crashed in 1987, when we left the US/the year when we left the US.
4. This bank, where many people worked, closed.
5. People who believe that the value of their shares will increase might buy more shares.

Exercise D (possible answers)

1. The University is a place **where you can get useful skills and knowledge on a subject.**
2. A good English learner is someone **who is not afraid of making mistakes when speaking.**
3. You will remember lectures better if **you take notes.**
4. If you go on an [Erasmus](#) course, **you might meet new people from another country.**
5. [TOEFL](#) or [IELTS](#) are tests **which/that are accepted by Universities all over the world.**
6. (write your own sentence using one or more of the following: **if, who, which, where, when, may, might, could**)
(students' own answers)