

Second conditional and trends
Business Result Pre-Intermediate Units 12, 13 and 14

Try to make as many true sentences as you can using the sentence stems below. You can only use each one once, and each one must have a different trends phrase ("improve", "flatten out", "accelerate", etc). You can combine the beginnings and endings below, or think of your own ideas to complete the halves. You will get one point for each phrase that other groups agree with but didn't write themselves.

If the number of gyms in offices rose, _____ would _____

If electricity bills for companies were slashed, _____ would _____

If restructuring of companies increased rapidly, _____ would _____

If the number of women working rocketed, _____ would _____

If the government banned cigarettes/ tobacco, _____ would _____

If the government scrapped income tax, _____ would _____

If taking career breaks _____, _____ would _____

If the age of retirement _____, _____ would _____

If the world's population _____, _____ would _____

If working from home _____, _____ would _____

If world supply of oil _____, _____ would _____

If _____, competition between companies would _____

If _____, owning cars would _____

If _____, the age of workers would _____

If _____, inflation would _____

If _____, pollution would _____

If _____, recycling would _____

If _____, the birth rate would _____

If _____, the economy would _____

If _____, the number of vegetarians would _____

If _____, global demand for oil would _____

If _____, the economy of this country would _____

If _____, the image of Japanese companies in China would _____

If _____, use of renewable energy would _____

If _____, women working would _____

If _____, working conditions for workers would _____

If _____, air travel would _____

If _____, staff turnover would _____

Choose four from above which you think people will agree with but haven't thought of. Make sure you both of copies of them for when you change groups.

Change groups and give your ideas. Do the other people agree? If so and they didn't write the same sentence, you get a point.

Grammar analysis

What structure do all the phrases above have? Fill in the gaps below

If + S + _____ tense, S + _____ + _____

(S = subject, such as "I" or "The company")

What other structures start with "If" in a similar way?

What is the difference in meaning between the structure above and this structure?

If + S + Present Simple tense, S + will + infinitive

Which of those tenses is probably suitable for these sentences?

If oil _____ (run out) next year, the economy _____ (crash).

If the economy _____ (improve) a little next year, wages _____ (probably go up too).

Useful phrases

a little
accelerate
ameliorate
be enhanced
be stable
be unstable
blip
boom
bottom out
bounce back
buoyant
change
climb
collapse
crash
creep up
decline
decrease
deteriorate
dip
dive
double
dramatically
drop
escalate
expand
experience some turbulence
explode
fall
fall back
flatten out
fluctuate
go down
go up
go up and down
grow
halve
improve
increase
increase, but not at the same rate
increase/ decrease at the same rate
increase/ decrease steadily
level off
move
not vary
peak

pick up
plateau
plummet
plunge
quadruple
quickly
rapidly
rebound
recover
regain lost ground
remain constant
remain steady
rise
rise less rapidly
rocket
sharply
shoot up
shrink
sink
slightly
slip back
slow down
slowly
slump
soar
stabilise
stay flat
stay the same
take off
triple
vary
worsen

Find phrases above which mean the same thing, then test each other on that in pairs.

Mime one of the meanings above and see how many phrases with that meaning your partner can think of. Give them hints if they get stuck.