

There are some problems with my papers.

To study, you need to be curious, and it is also very important to be perseverant.

To preserver > to carry on working, not to give up. If you fail an exam, it does not matter. Keep going.

Obviously, sometimes you need to adjust your ambitions. But it is important not to give up.

I have just started my exams. I had one this morning, but there are others to come.

There are two very good sites to practice grammar:

1/ See the British Council website: <https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/> The grammar explanations are very good.

2/ The GERMAN website – in English: <https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/>

This site offers explanations and exercises.

The car does 150 mph (miles per hour) OR 150 miles an hour.

Where is the USB drive I lent you last week? Here, the USB drive is clearly defined (the one I lent you last week). Therefore, use the definite article “the”.

(Bristol and Liverpool were important towns in the Triangular Slave Trade.)

Conditionals

Type 0 conditionals are “facts”, cause and effect relations.

If you heat water at 100°C, it boils.

Type 1 conditionals are for real situations “in the present”.

If the weather is nice this evening, I will go to see a friend.

(The condition is in the present tense, and the result takes “will” + the infinitive.)

Type 2 conditionals are hypothetical situations “in the present”.

If I could travel, I would visit my brother in Istanbul.

If I *were* you (good English: *If I was you* – poor but acceptable) I would practice the Duolingo test exercises before taking the test.

In this case, the tense of the condition is in the past, and the result is formed using “would” + infinitive.

Type 3 conditionals are for past, hypothetical situations.

If I had come to see you yesterday, I would have seen your sister as well.

The conditional goes back a tense and takes the past perfect (pluperfect), and the result takes “would” + the past infinitive (have + past participle).

See the exercises here: https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises_list/if.htm

Duolingo Test: Preparation [Duolingo English Test: https://www.englishtest.duolingo.com/prepare](https://www.englishtest.duolingo.com/prepare)

The video showing the test structure:

<https://www.englishtest.duolingo.com/prepare/format>

The test exercises are quite fast, and I don't think you have any control over the timing. For each activity, Duolingo sets the time.

Here is a Zoom AI summary of the class:

Quick recap

The meeting began with Nader discussing his personal situation regarding work limitations due to licensing issues and his family life in Gaza, including details about his father's pension and travel restrictions between Gaza and the West Bank. The conversation then shifted to discussing family connections in Turkey and Nicholas's previous travel experiences in the region. The latter part of the meeting focused on language learning activities, including a grammar lesson on conditional sentences and preparation for the Duolingo English test, with students sharing their concerns and experiences about the test format and requirements.

Next steps

- Nader: Apply for Duolingo test next month
- Nader: Obtain official certificate from university to resolve license papers issue
- Marah: Take Duolingo test in April (mid-April)
- Sarah: Take Duolingo test in March/April
- Asil: Take Duolingo test in April
- Sarah: Check if brother's laptop has a working camera before taking the test
- All students preparing for test: Practice grammar exercises on the German website (English Hilfen) and British Council Learn English site
- All students preparing for test: Continue practicing Duolingo test exercises for next class
- Nicholas: Find additional test preparation material for next week's class
- Nicholas: Continue working on Duolingo test activities (speaking about photos) in next week's class

Summary

Life in Gaza: Nader's Story

Nader explained that he is currently not working due to issues with obtaining his license, which requires official university documentation that is currently being processed in the West Bank. He described his daily life, including helping his family with cooking using wood from lemon and orange trees in their garden, as gas is limited. Nader's father, a retired Arabic teacher, receives a pension from the West Bank Ministry of Education, which is deposited into a Bank of Palestine account. Travel between Gaza and the West Bank

remains restricted, and Nader shared that his father recently returned from Jerusalem after visiting his uncle, an endocrine doctor who had died from pancreatic cancer.

Turkish Family and Travel Experiences

Nicholas and Nader discussed Nader's family connections in Turkey, including his brother who lives in Istanbul and works as an engineer, and his sister who is studying medicine in Konya. They also talked about Nader's sister's daughter who is attending online school. The conversation included a discussion about Nicholas's previous visits to Turkey, particularly Istanbul, Konya, and Cappadocia, with Nicholas sharing his experiences and knowledge of these regions.

Language Learning and Study Updates

The group discussed their recent activities and experiences. Nader mentioned his self-directed language learning, while Aya shared that she had joined Amy's group on Thursday and found it beneficial. Aya also mentioned she was preparing for finals, including an exam that morning. Nicholas suggested a grammar practice site for the group to use, though the specific details about the site were not provided in the transcript.

Grammar and Conditional Exercises

Nicholas led a grammar lesson focused on articles, demonstrating exercises from a German website called "Helping in English" and having students practice with various examples. The class discussed different types of conditionals (Type 0, 1, and 2), with Marah providing clear explanations about their purposes and examples. Marah mentioned she is preparing for the Duolingo test in April, along with Asilan and Aya, and expressed interest in visiting Bristol based on Nicholas's description of the city.

Conditional Sentences and Test Prep

Nicholas taught the class about conditional sentences, explaining the differences between Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3 conditionals, with examples and explanations of proper grammar usage. He clarified the use of "were" versus "was" in conditional sentences and demonstrated how to construct hypothetical situations using past perfect tense. The class discussed the Duolingo test preparation, with Sarah confirming she had seen the test format and was practicing for her upcoming test in March or April.

Duolingo English Test Preparation Tips

The group discussed preparation for the Duolingo English test, with a focus on test format and requirements. Sarah shared her experience with the test structure, noting its difficulty and the importance of managing time effectively. Marah expressed concerns about taking notes in Arabic during the test and her slow typing speed in English, while Nicholas advised practicing typing skills and using any language tools that help, including Arabic. The group reviewed test rules, including camera requirements and no note-taking policies, and Nicholas recommended practicing with the provided websites, particularly the British Council's English learning site and a German grammar website for writing skills.

