CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

There are a lot of technical instructions which come along with conditions.

A Conditional Clause is introduced by the word **if**.

There are three different types of Conditional Clauses:

Type #1 - Examples:
− If you speak English, you will understand the written instructions.
− If the part is damaged, I will replace it.

Type #1: It is very **likely** that the condition will be fulfilled.
Type 1 is a combination of present and future tense.

Type #2 - Examples:
− If you spoke English, you would understand the written instructions.
− If the part was (or: were) damaged, I would replace it.

Type #2: It is possible, but **not very likely** that the condition will be fulfilled.
You use the past form of the verb together with **if**.

If I **had / flew / wanted / etc.**

Type #3 - Examples:
− If you had spoken English, you would have understood the written instructions.
− If the part had been damaged, I would have replaced it.

Type #3: The condition **cannot be fulfilled any more** because you express what you had done in a particular case. This type of Conditional Clause is not very typical of technical documentation but it is very common in everyday spoken English whenever we talk about events from the past.