

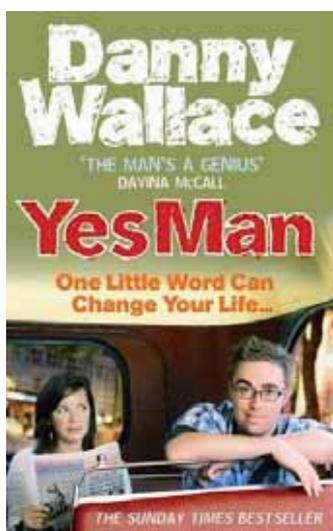
Intermediate GrammarPlus

Never Say Never

1 Read this review. Does the writer prefer the book or film version of *Yes Man*?

Yes Man is a book by British author Danny Wallace that has recently been made into a film. It is a true story based on the experiences of the author who, after a conversation with a stranger on a bus, decided to be more positive in life and say “yes” to everything for one year. No sooner had he made this momentous decision than he began to find himself in many challenging but ultimately interesting situations.

Not only did I find *Yes Man* intriguing, I have also never laughed so much while reading a book. One of many hilarious moments is when the author had to deal with a telephone conversation with a salesman. To begin with the salesman, who was selling window insulation, was very optimistic that he was going to make a sale because Danny Wallace said “yes” to all of his proposals. However, the salesman’s attitude changed when he eventually asked a question which revealed that the author’s windows were already insulated.



The message of the book is that by saying “yes” life becomes more interesting and rewarding. During the year important job opportunities emerged, Danny took interesting journeys and he made new friends. It becomes clear that the author would not have realised how much fun life could be if he had not decided to say “yes” to everything. In a way, while he was involved in these adventures he began to understand that he was saying “yes” to life.

Both the book and the film have had great success but one gets the feeling that if the film had not been so successful, the book would not have been read by so many people. In the search for a humorous story, the film version, as can be expected, is more over the top and unrealistic. Only after you have seen the film do you really appreciate how good the book is. Therefore, we can be thankful that the film exists. If it had not been made, many people would have been deprived of a wonderful, uplifting story.

DISCOVER

Grammar 1 (3rd-type Conditional)

- 2 Read these examples of an ‘if-construction’ used in the review and find one other example in the text. Then answer the questions in the Deductions box.
- If the film had not been so successful, the book would not have been read by so many people.*
- The author would not have realised how much fun life could be if he had not decided to say “yes” to everything.*

DEDUCTIONS

- a Put the jumbled up components of the ‘if construction’ into two different possible orders. would / if / , / Past Perfect / past participle / have
- if + _____ + _____ + _____ + _____ + _____
- would / if / Past Perfect / past participle / have
- _____ + _____ + _____ + if + _____
- b This type of construction is used *to refer to the past / to the present / to the future*. (cross out the incorrect options)
- c This type of construction is used to refer to a situation *which is possible / which is improbable / which never occurred*. (cross out the incorrect options)

- 3 Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Decide whether each verb has to be in the affirmative or in the negative form.
- If my mother and father _____ (meet), I _____ (be born).
 - If David _____ (speak) to me about the problem, I _____ (do) anything about it.
 - I'm sure I _____ (find) a better job if I _____ (study) harder at school.
 - If you _____ (go) to the party, you probably _____ (have) a great time.
 - If you had not eaten (eat) so much you _____ so ill. (feel)
 - He _____ (book) the holiday if he _____ (know) that his friend couldn't come with him.
 - I think I _____ (arrive) too late if I _____ (take) a taxi.
 - My dad _____ (be) an engineer instead if he _____ (join) the army.

DISCOVER

Grammar 2 (Inversion)

- 4 Read these extracts from the review, then fill in the blanks in the Deductions box.
- No sooner had he made this momentous decision than he began to find himself in many challenging but ultimately interesting situations.*
 - Not only did I find Yes Man intriguing, I have also never laughed so much while reading a book.*
 - Only after you have seen the film do you really appreciate how good the book is.*

DEDUCTIONS

- In all the extracts there is an example of inversion of the _____ and the _____.
- If there is no auxiliary, the verb _____ is used.
- In extract(s) _____ there is an expression with a negative meaning.
- In extract(s) _____ there is there an example of inversion in the second half of the sentence.

- 5 Look at these sentences and fill in each gap with the appropriate expression.

not only no sooner only when

- _____ you live in a foreign country can you really begin to understand its culture.
- _____ did she lose my mobile phone, she also broke my bicycle.
- _____ had he parked the car than he saw the no parking sign.

COMMUNICATE

Pair Work

- 6 Discuss what your life would have been like without:
- running water
 - television
 - the telephone



USEFUL EXPRESSIONS

Without ... it would have been absolutely impossible to...

Nobody would have been able to...

I / We / My family would have had a lot of trouble...

The only way you could have....

I expect / don't expect...

...would have been very different!