

## 15

Conditionals, Temporals, *wish*

## TEST YOURSELF

Read the pairs of sentences below and circle the sentence which is correct.

**EXAMPLE:** A If you will put water in the freezer, it turns to ice.  
 B If you put water in the freezer, it turns to ice.

1 A When she gives me her new address, I will send her the photographs.  
 B When she will give me her new address, I will send her the photographs.

2 A I'll tell him what you said if I won't forget.  
 B I'll tell him what you said if I don't forget.

3 A If you feel tired, go to bed early!  
 B If you will feel tired, go to bed early!

4 A Unless you don't tell me the truth, I can't help you.  
 B Unless you tell me the truth, I can't help you.

5 A As long as I will live, I will never forget him.  
 B As long as I live, I will never forget him.

6 A If he has toothache, he should go to the dentist.  
 B If he had toothache, he should go to the dentist.

7 A They will discuss the matter with you before they will come to a decision.  
 B They will discuss the matter with you before they come to a decision.

8 A If I knew the answer to your question, I would tell you.  
 B If I would know the answer to your question, I would tell you.

9 A I wouldn't enjoy myself unless you were with me.  
 B I didn't enjoy myself unless you would be with me.

10 A If I would be you, I would try harder.  
 B If I were you, I would try harder.

11 A Would the project have been finished if they hadn't worked overtime?  
 B Would the project have been finished if they wouldn't have worked overtime?

12 A If they had asked me, I would have lent them the money.  
 B If they had asked me, I would be lent them the money.

13 A If she hadn't had to work late, she could have come to the cinema with us.  
 B If she wouldn't have to work late, she could have come to the cinema with us.

14 A Once the pupils will have finished the exercise, the teacher will correct it.  
 B Once the pupils have finished the exercise, the teacher will correct it.

15 A I wish I lived closer to my friends.  
 B I wish I live closer to my friends.

16 A If only I can come with you on holiday.  
 B If only I could come with you on holiday.

17 A I wish I hadn't told her the news.  
 B I wish I did not tell her the news.

18 A I wish my sister doesn't borrow all my clothes!  
 B I wish my sister wouldn't borrow all my clothes!

19 A He wishes he will get more pocket money.  
 B He wishes he got more pocket money.

20 A If only he had invited me to his party last week.  
 B If only he would have invited me to his party last week.

Check your answers with your teacher. How many of them are correct?

0-6: Start studying! 7-9: Try harder! 10-12: Quite good! 13-15: Good! 16-20: Excellent!



## Zero, First, Second and Third Conditionals

| FORM                                                                                                  | USE                                                                                                             | EXAMPLES                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ZERO CONDITIONAL</b><br>if / when + Present Simple + Present Simple                                | a. for facts or truths<br>b. habitual results                                                                   | <i>If water reaches 100°C, it boils.</i><br><i>If / When it rains, I feel miserable.</i>                                                            |
| <b>FIRST CONDITIONAL</b><br>if + Present Simple + will / can / may + bare infinitive                  | future possibilities                                                                                            | <i>If you try hard, you will succeed.</i><br><i>Unless you leave now, you will be late.</i><br><i>They'll let us know if they can come tonight.</i> |
| if + Present Simple + Imperative                                                                      | commands                                                                                                        | <i>If you know the answer, tell me!</i>                                                                                                             |
| <b>SECOND CONDITIONAL (UNREAL)</b><br>if + Past Simple + would / could / might + bare infinitive      | a hypothetical or imaginary situation in the present or future; also used to express advice, hopes or ambitions | <i>If I had time, I would exercise more.</i><br><i>If I were you, I would get help.</i><br><i>If I worked harder, I could pass the exam.</i>        |
| <b>THIRD CONDITIONAL (PAST)</b><br>if + Past Perfect + would / could / might + have + past participle | an unfulfilled condition in the past; may be used to express regret about the past                              | <i>If I had known the truth, I wouldn't have trusted him.</i>                                                                                       |

### NOTES

- 1 **unless = if not**      *You'll miss the bus unless you hurry.*      *You'll miss the bus if you don't hurry.*
- 2 In formal English, we use **were** for all subjects in the second conditional.  
*If he were here, he would enjoy this dinner. (not: If he was . . . X)*
- 3 Passive forms of verbs may also be used in conditional sentences.  
*If I am chosen, I'll be very happy.*      *If you spoke English, you would be given an interview.*

## Conditionals without *if* and Temporals

| FORM                                                                  | USE                                                                       | EXAMPLES                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CONDITIONALS WITHOUT IF</b>                                        |                                                                           |                                                                                                                    |
| suppose / supposing (that)                                            | to ask <i>what if . . .</i> (the result clause is usually a question)     | <i>Supposing we sent her flowers, would she forgive us?</i>                                                        |
| on condition (that)<br>as / so long as<br>provided / providing (that) | to express an idea of strong limitation                                   | <i>I will help you on condition that you keep it a secret.</i>                                                     |
| in case                                                               | to refer to things that may not happen or we do in advance to be prepared | <i>Take an umbrella in case it rains.</i>                                                                          |
| otherwise (= If you don't)                                            | to say what would happen if things were different                         | <i>Put on a coat. Otherwise you'll be cold.</i>                                                                    |
| <b>TEMPORALS</b>                                                      |                                                                           |                                                                                                                    |
| time expression + present tenses + will / can / be going to           | future meaning                                                            | <i>When I wake up, I will wash my hair. (not: When I will wake up... X)</i><br><i>We won't eat until you come.</i> |
| time expression + Present Perfect + will / can / be going to          | to show completion of one action before another                           | <i>After you've tidied up, you can go out.</i>                                                                     |

## TIME EXPRESSIONS

when, until / till, once, the moment that, as soon / long as, before, after, by the time (that), so long as

## wish

| FORM                                 | USE                                                     | EXAMPLES                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| wish + could + bare infinitive       | to refer to possibility in the present / future         | <i>I wish they could join us tonight.</i>                                                                               |
| wish + would + bare infinitive       | a complaint about the present or a desire for change    | <i>I wish he would stop smoking.</i>                                                                                    |
| wish + Past Simple / Past Continuous | dissatisfaction with a present situation, hopes, dreams | <i>I wish I spoke better English.</i><br><i>I wish she were free tonight.</i><br><i>I wish I were going to America.</i> |
| wish + Past Perfect                  | regret about a past situation                           | <i>I wish I had written to them.</i><br><i>I wish we hadn't left so early.</i>                                          |

## NOTES

- 1 *Wish* cannot be used with present / future tenses because a wish is always hypothetical. For possible situations, use *hope*:  
*I hope I have time to watch TV tonight.* (= maybe I will)      *I wish I had time to watch TV.* (= but I don't)
- 2 *Wish + would* can only be used with different subjects.  
*I wish she would stop asking me silly questions.* (not: *I wish I would find a job.* X)
- 3 *If only* can replace *wish* and is often used to emphasise a wish or to express a strong desire or regret.  
*If only* they would make a decision.    *If only* she were free tonight.    *If only* I had written to them.
- 4 In formal English, we use *were* for all subjects in wishes about the present (as in the second conditional).  
*I wish I were old enough to vote.*    *If I were old enough, I would vote.*
- 5 Wishes showing regret about the past are similar to the third conditional.  
*I wish I had phoned you.*    *If I had phoned you, you would have known about the party.*

## COMMON MISTAKES

*The following sentences contain mistakes commonly made by students. Rewrite them correctly.*



1. If it won't rain tomorrow, we will play tennis in the morning.

2. Unless you won't be ready on time, I'll leave without you.

3. If I would have known you were in hospital, I would have visit you.

4. Before you will travel to France, you will have to get a passport.

5. We wish we would go swimming more often.

6. If only I can go out with you tonight, but my parents won't let me.



## Grammar Practice

### A. Circle the correct form of the verb in the following paragraph.

As soon as I 1. have finished / will finish packing, I'll go and ask my neighbours to water the plants for me till I 2. will come / come home in two weeks' time. Before I 3. go / will go to bed tonight, I'd better set the alarm clock because I have to get up early tomorrow morning. When I 4. arrive / will have arrived at the airport tomorrow, I'll go straight to the check-in and get rid of my heavy case. By the time the plane 5. will take off / takes off, I'll be hungry, so I hope we get something to eat quickly. We should be in London by lunchtime, so after I 6. have registered / will register at the hotel, I'll get some lunch and then take a bus tour of London. There's so much to see and do in London! As long as my money 7. has lasted / lasts, I'll enjoy myself. I'm sure I'll have lots to tell my friends once I 8. get back / will get back; they'll be so jealous. Tonight, I'll relax by watching a good film on TV until it 9. will be / is time to go to bed. Tomorrow, before I 10. have left / leave the house, I must remember to lock all the windows. Oh dear, there's always so much to do before a holiday!



### B. Circle the correct form of the verb.

1. I wish I **would be** / **were** / **had been** / **am** lying on the beach right now.
2. I wish my brother **helped** / **is helping** / **had helped** / **would help** me with my homework later.
3. If only she **would advise** / **will advise** / **would have advised** / **advises** me what to do.
4. We wish you **phoned** / **would phone** / **had phoned** / **phone** more often from now on.
5. I wish I **understand** / **understood** / **had understood** / **can understand** what he is trying to say. If he **has spoken** / **had spoken** / **would speak** / **spoke** more clearly, it would be easier to understand him.
6. If only my parents **didn't own** / **don't own** / **wouldn't own** / **aren't owning** such an old car. If their car **is** / **were** / **could be** / **would be** newer, they would have fewer problems with it.
7. They wish they **would spend** / **will spend** / **spent** / **could spend** the weekend with us. If they spent the weekend with us, we **can have** / **could have** / **will have** / **are going to have** a really good time together.
8. If only we **have visited** / **visited** / **would visit** / **had visited** her when we were in London. She **would have been** / **had been** / **would be** / **will be** very happy to see us.

### C. Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. If you divide 100 by 25, you ..... (get) four.
2. We would hear him better if he ..... (speak) louder.
3. If she ..... (not get) the job she applied for, she will be very disappointed.
4. They ..... (forget) to phone her if I hadn't reminded them.
5. If she ..... (post) the letter this afternoon, will he receive it tomorrow?
6. Unless you ..... (agree) to come with me to the lecture, I won't go either.
7. I ..... (prefer) to buy a flat in a residential area if I had the choice.
8. Unless an athlete ..... (train) every day, he will not be as fit as he should be.
9. If I ..... (be) you, I would try to contact them as soon as possible.
10. If the weather is good at the weekend, we ..... (spend) the day at the beach.
11. William wouldn't have been late for work if he ..... (not catch) in a traffic jam.
12. If he ..... (not smoke) so much, he would be healthier.
13. You ..... (can finish) the task on time if you had made more effort.
14. If we ..... (want) to get seats for the concert, we must buy the tickets soon.

## D. Complete the following paragraphs with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. Recently, my friend Jackie went to Ireland, but she was a little disappointed with her holiday. She wishes that she (1) ..... (plan) her trip more carefully; if only she (2) ..... (not spend) so much time buying new clothes for her holiday, she might have had more time to plan where she was going.

2. My brother, Richard, is also planning his next holiday at the moment. He says he wishes his holiday (1) ..... (be) longer because he can only go away for two weeks, and he really wishes he (2) ..... (go) away for a month. I wish he (3) ..... (make up) his mind where he's going and stop coming round with different travel brochures all the time. It's making me quite jealous! I wish I (4) ..... (not have) important exams at university at the end of the month because I really wish I (5) ..... (travel) with him.

3. I wish I (1) ..... (know) what I wanted to do this summer, but I can't decide. For a start, I've got no money. If only my grandparents (2) ..... (give) me a plane ticket for my birthday next week, that would solve all my problems, but I think that's unlikely! If only I (3) ..... (be born) into a family of millionaires – but that's wishful thinking!



## Exam Practice

A. Use the words in Table A to complete the sentences in Table B so that they have the meaning indicated in Table C. (Use each item in Table A only once. There are two you won't need.)

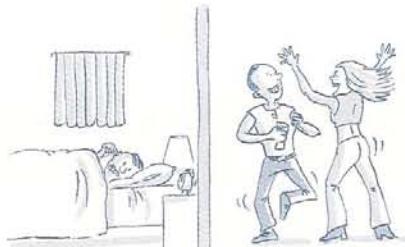
**TIP!** Read the information in Table C carefully – the clues will help you remember your grammar!

TABLE A

|             |           |              |            |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| A when      | B unless  | C as soon as | D provided |
| E otherwise | F if only | G would      | H in case  |

TABLE B

|                                                                     |                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. You should get extra soft drinks ..... uninvited guests turn up. | Advising someone to be prepared in advance.            |
| 2. ..... I had listened to her advice.                              | Expressing regret about the past.                      |
| 3. You can have tomorrow off ..... you stay late the next day.      | Stating a condition or limitation.                     |
| 4. ..... we've finished decorating, we'll move in.                  | Talking about completing one action before another.    |
| 5. John needs to get a job; ..... he won't be able to pay his rent. | Talking about a situation if something doesn't happen. |
| 6. I wish my neighbours ..... stop making so much noise.            | Making a complaint about others' behaviour.            |



B. **KEY WORD TRANSFORMATIONS** Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

**TIP!** Make sure that the meaning of the second sentence is the same as the original one.

1. The students were angry at the cancellation of their trip. **cancelled**  
If their trip ..... , the students wouldn't have been angry.
2. I'm sorry I forgot your wedding anniversary last week. **wish**  
I ..... your wedding anniversary last week.
3. She'll check the arrival time of the plane before she leaves for the airport. **until**  
She won't leave for the airport ..... the arrival time of the plane.
4. I didn't find the exam difficult because I worked very hard for it. **if**  
I would have found the exam more difficult ..... so hard for it.
5. I would like our teacher to be less strict. **only**  
If ..... so strict.
6. He will come to the restaurant with us unless he has to work late that night. **if**  
He will come to the restaurant with us ..... to work late that night.
7. There's no point in planning a holiday without knowing all the possible dates. **once**  
We'll plan a holiday ..... all the possible dates.
8. It's a shame we don't go to the theatre more often. **wish**  
I ..... to the theatre more often.

C. **OPEN CLOZE** Read the text below and think of the word which best fits each space. Use only one word in each space.

#### THE LUCKIEST MAN ALIVE?

Many people wish they (1) ..... win the lottery. Certainly if I (2) ..... £600,000, I would consider myself a very lucky person. Frane Selak, a Croatian man (3) ..... won that amount, had (4) ..... so much bad luck in his life that you wouldn't have expected him to win (5) ..... at all. In the past 40 years, he has (6) ..... involved in a plane crash, a train crash, and several bus and car crashes. His first accident was in 1968, when a train went off the rails into an icy river. Seventeen passengers drowned but Mr Selak managed to swim to safety. A year (7) ..... , he was the only survivor of an air crash. Strangely enough, he wouldn't have been on the plane at all (8) ..... he hadn't begged the airline to let him travel. The plane was already full, but because he needed to get home urgently to see his sick mother, they allowed him to occupy a staff seat. If I (9) ..... Mr Selak, I don't think I would ever travel (10) ..... . But now that he has plenty of money, he intends (11) ..... buy a new car and a speedboat. He believes that his bad luck is (12) ..... and he is now ready to enjoy life. If only I were so lucky!

