ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Clauses (Elementary / Pre-Intermediate) Test 1

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Explanations

1. I'll stay home if it _____.
✓ **B) rains**
After **if**, we use the present simple to talk about the future: **if it rains**. Not **will rain**: we don't use **will** after **if**.

2. If I _____ out, I'll buy a newspaper.
✓ **A) go**
This is a first conditional: **if** + present simple, **will** + verb. So we say **If I go out**. Not **will go**: we don't use **will** after **if**.

3. I'll help him if he _____.
✓ **C) asks**
After **if**, use the present simple for the future. With **he**, add -s: **if he asks**. Not **ask**, because **he** needs **asks**.

4. If I fail the exam, I _____ it again.
✓ **C) will take**
First conditional: **if** + present simple (**fail**), then **will** + verb in the other part: **I will take it again**.

5. I'm very busy today. If I _____ time, I could go with you.
✓ **D) had**
The speaker is busy, so this is not real now. For an unreal situation we use **if** + past simple and **could/would** + verb: **If I had time, I could go**. Not **have**, because the speaker doesn't have time.

6. I'll go to the park if it _____ cold.
✓ **C) isn't**
I'll go shows a first conditional, so use the present simple after **if**: **if it isn't cold**. Not **wasn't**, which is past.

7. If I _____ a bird, I could fly home.
✓ **A) were**
This is an unreal (imaginary) situation, so we use **if** + **were**: **If I were a bird**. Not **would be**: we don't use **would** after **if**.

8. If the weather were nice, I _____ to the beach.
✓ **B) would go**
Second conditional: **if** + past (**were**), then **would** + verb: **I would go**. Not **will go**, because **were** shows an unreal situation.

9. If she _____, she usually does well on the tests.
✓ **C) studies**
Usually shows something that is generally true, so we use the present simple in both parts: **If she studies, she usually does well**.

10. If you needed the money, I _____ it to you.
✓ **A) would lend**
Second conditional: **if** + past (**needed**), then **would** + verb: **I would lend it to you**. Not **will lend**, because **needed** shows an imaginary situation.

11. I _____ to you if you don't come.
✓ **B) won't talk**
The **if** part is present (**if you don't come**), so this is a first conditional: **I won't talk to you**. Not **wouldn't talk**, which goes with a past verb after **if**.

12. If I _____ a lot of money, I'd take a long holiday.
✓ **A) won**
I'd take (= I would take) shows a second conditional, so use the past simple after **if**: **If I won a lot of money**. Not **had won**, which is for the past.

13. You wouldn't _____ your car if you had driven more carefully.
✓ **D) have damaged**
If you had driven is about the past, so this is a third conditional: **wouldn't have** + past participle: **You wouldn't have damaged your car**. Not **damage**, because the accident is already in the past.

14. If I had time, _____ see the new film at the cinema.
✓ **B) I'd**
If I had time is a second conditional, so the other part needs **would**: **I'd see** (= I would see). Not **I'll**, which goes with a present verb after **if**.

15. A: I smoke too much.

B: If I _____ you, I _____ smoke at all.
✓ **D) were / wouldn't**
To give advice we say **If I were you, I wouldn't…**. Use **were** (not **was**) and **would/wouldn't** + verb: **I wouldn't smoke at all**.

16. I don't have much money so I can't travel. If I _____ a lot of money, I _____ travel.
✓ **B) had / would**
The speaker doesn't have much money, so this is imaginary. Second conditional: **if** + past (**had**), then **would** + verb: **I would travel**. Not **had / can**, because **can** doesn't match the past **had**.

17. I'm going out. If the phone _____, please answer it.
✓ **B) rings**
This is about a real future possibility, so use the present simple after **if**: **If the phone rings**. Not **will ring**: we don't use **will** after **if**.

18. I _____ the car if I had the right tools.
✓ **C) could repair**
If I had shows a second conditional, so the other part needs **could/would** + verb: **I could repair the car**. Not **can repair**, which doesn't match the past **had**.

19. If you mix yellow and blue, you _____ green.
✓ **A) get**
This is a fact that is always true (zero conditional), so use the present simple in both parts: **you get green**. Not **gets**, because the subject is **you**.

20. I usually take some aspirin if I _____ a headache.
✓ **B) have**
Usually shows a habit, so we use the present simple in both parts: **if I have a headache**. Not **had**, which is past.

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