ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditional Mood MCQ Test With Answers – If Clause Type 1-2-3

Conditionals (If Clauses) Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF:
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Explanations

1. I think it's extremely unlikely, but if we do come across _____ wild animals at all, we must be prepared to defend ourselves.
✓ **C) any**
In **if**-clauses and with **at all**, we normally use **any** because the speaker doubts it will happen: **if we see any animals at all**. Not **some**, because **some** suggests we expect to find animals, and the speaker says it is extremely unlikely.

2. It probably _____ if you'd been more careful.
✓ **D) would never have happened**
This is a third conditional about the past: **if + past perfect** (**you'd been** = you had been), **would have + past participle**. So **it would never have happened** is the only form that fits.

3. If he had taken my advice, he _____ a rich man by now.
✓ **E) would have been**
The if-clause is about the past (**had taken**), and **by now** looks at the whole time up to the present. So the result uses **would have + past participle**: **he would have been a rich man by now**. Not **had been**, because the past perfect belongs in the if-clause, not in the result.

4. If he had taken my advice, he _____ a rich man now.
✓ **B) would be**
This is a mixed conditional. The condition is in the past (**had taken my advice**), but the result is about the present (**now**), so we use **would + infinitive**: **he would be a rich man now**. Not **would have been**, because that refers to the past, not to **now**.

5. She'd be quite pretty if she _____ so much make-up.
✓ **A) didn't wear**
This is a second conditional about an unreal present situation: **would + infinitive** (**she'd be**) and **if + past simple**. So we need **didn't wear**. Not **doesn't wear**, because the present tense goes with **will**, not **would**.

6. I didn't know whether you had to have one of these or not. I would have given it to you freely if you _____ one.
✓ **B) had had to have**
The result is a third conditional (**would have given**), so the if-clause needs the past perfect. The past perfect of **have to** is **had had to**, so we get **if you had had to have one**. Not **had to have**, because the past simple does not go with **would have given**.

7. You _____ pay less now if you had decided to become a full member at the time.
✓ **A) would have to**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**had decided ... at the time**) with a present result (**now**). The present result uses **would + infinitive**: **you would have to pay less now**. Not **would have had to**, because that refers to the past and does not fit **now**.

8. I'm sure she would have come and seen me if she _____ the time.
✓ **D) had had**
The result clause is third conditional (**would have come**), so the if-clause needs the past perfect. The past perfect of **have** is **had had**: **if she had had the time**. Not **would have**, because **would** is not normally used in the if-clause.

9. If I _____ you, I wouldn't buy that old car.
✓ **E) were**
We use **If I were you** to give advice. It is a second conditional: **if + past** (**were**), **would + infinitive** (**wouldn't buy**). Not **had been**, because the advice is about now, not the past.

10. If the fog gets any thicker, they _____ to cancel the game altogether.
✓ **B) might have to decide**
This is a first conditional about a real possibility: **if + present simple** (**gets**), with **will/may/might + infinitive** in the result. **They might have to decide** shows a possible future result. Not **would have decided**, because that is third conditional and refers to the past.

11. If you really want to lose some weight, you _____ less bread.
✓ **A) had better eat**
When the if-clause is in the present (**you really want**), the result clause can give advice with **had better + infinitive**: **you had better eat less bread**. Not **would eat**, because **would** needs an unreal condition in the past tense.

12. I'm terrified of planes. I'd feel much safer if we _____ by boat.
✓ **D) were going**
This is a second conditional about an imagined present or future plan: **I'd feel** (**would + infinitive**) needs **if + past**. **If we were going by boat** describes the imagined arrangement. Not **would go**, because **would** is not normally used in the if-clause.

13. I _____ it that colour – if I were you.
✓ **E) wouldn't paint**
If I were you is a second conditional used for advice, so the main clause needs **would + infinitive**: **I wouldn't paint it that colour**. Not **didn't paint**, because the past simple belongs in the if-clause, not in the result.

14. Unless you _____ the bell twice, nobody will answer it.
✓ **B) ring**
Unless means **if not**, and it is followed by a positive verb in the present simple: **Unless you ring the bell twice** = **If you don't ring it twice**. Not **don't ring**, because **unless** already contains the negative idea.

15. _____ there be any delay, please notify us at once.
✓ **D) Should**
In formal English, we can leave out **if** and begin with **Should**: **Should there be any delay** = **If there is any delay**. This is common in formal letters and instructions. Not **Were**, because **Were there be** is not correct; it would need **Were there to be**.

16. I _____ very grateful if you _____ as soon as possible.
✓ **D) should be / would reply**
This is a polite formal request. **I should be grateful** (British formal for **I would be grateful**) goes with **if you would reply**, where **would** means **if you are willing to**. Not **were / would reply**, because **I were very grateful** is not a correct main clause.

17. We _____ shopping again today if you had bought enough supplies yesterday.
✓ **E) wouldn't have to go**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**had bought ... yesterday**) with a present result (**today**). The result uses **would + infinitive**: **we wouldn't have to go shopping again today**. Not **don't have to go**, because a real present tense cannot follow an unreal past condition.

18. If he didn't gamble as much as he does, I'm sure he _____ quite rich by now.
✓ **A) would have been**
The condition is unreal (**if he didn't gamble**), so the result needs **would**. With **by now**, the perfect form looks at the whole time up to the present: **he would have been quite rich by now**. Not **will be**, because **will** is used for real conditions, not imagined ones.

19. If it hadn't been for their help, we _____ here now.
✓ **E) wouldn't be**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If it hadn't been for their help**) with a present result (**now**). So we use **would + infinitive**: **we wouldn't be here now**. Not **wouldn't have been**, because that refers to the past and does not fit **now**.

20. I _____ you provided that you promise to be more careful from now on.
✓ **A) 'll help**
Provided that means **only if**, and it works like a first conditional: present simple (**you promise**) + **will**. So **I'll help you** is correct. Not **won't help**, because the speaker is offering help on a condition.

21. Everyone knows he's very careless with money. I would have lent him the money if he _____ so careless.
✓ **B) weren't**
This is a mixed conditional. The if-clause describes a permanent present quality, so it uses the past simple, **if he weren't so careless**. The result is a past action, **would have lent**. Not **isn't**, because an unreal condition needs a past form.

22. If I had known about the cancellation beforehand, I _____ a ticket in the first place.
✓ **C) wouldn't have bought**
This is a third conditional about the past: **if + past perfect** (**had known**), **would have + past participle**. So **I wouldn't have bought a ticket** is correct. Not **wouldn't buy**, because the buying happened in the past.

23. If I hadn't missed that plane, I _____ in New York now.
✓ **A) would be**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**If I hadn't missed that plane**) with a present result (**now**). So we use **would + infinitive**: **I would be in New York now**. Not **would have been**, because that refers to the past, not to **now**.

24. _____ she to appear here suddenly, wouldn't you be greatly surprised?
✓ **E) Were**
In formal English, we can leave out **if** and start with **Were + subject + to-infinitive**: **Were she to appear** = **If she appeared**. Not **Was**, because only **Were** is used in this inverted form.

25. Were you _____ on your own for this difficult mission, you should have had a perfect right to protest.
✓ **E) to have been sent**
This is an inverted conditional without **if**: **Were you to + infinitive**. The result is about the past (**should have had** = **would have had**, formal British), so the condition needs the perfect passive infinitive: **Were you to have been sent** = **If you had been sent**. Not **to be sent**, because that refers to the present or future, not to the past.

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