ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditional, Relative, Wish Clauses Test 3

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Explanations

1. If anyone _____ while I'm out shopping, tell them that I _____ back in an hour.
✔ **E) should call / will be**
If anyone should call is a polite, more formal way of saying **if anyone calls**, a possible future event. The message is about the future, so the reported part uses **will be** back in an hour. Not **might have called**, because the call hasn't happened yet.

2. You _____ me know if you _____ any intention of coming.
✔ **C) should have let / didn't have**
Should have + past participle criticises something that didn't happen in the past: **You should have let me know**. The if-clause describes the past situation, so it uses the past simple: **if you didn't have any intention of coming**. Not **ought to have let / weren't to have**, because **weren't to have** is not correct here.

3. I _____ reservations for you if you _____ to come to our hotel before we _____.
✔ **A) will make / are going / leave**
This is a first conditional about a real future plan: **if you are going to come** + **will make**. After the time word **before**, we use the present simple for the future: **before we leave**. Not **leaved**, which is not a real past form (the past is **left**).

4. If you _____ a horse and you lose control, you _____ an emergency dismount.
✔ **B) are riding / should make**
This gives advice for a real, general situation, so the if-clause uses the present: **If you are riding a horse and you lose control**. The main clause uses **should** + base verb for advice: **you should make an emergency dismount**. Not **must made**, because modals are followed by the base form.

5. _____ the door or the draught _____ us ill.
✔ **C) close / will make**
An order (**close**) + **or** gives a warning: **Close the door or the draught will make us ill.** It means 'if you don't close the door, the draught will make us ill', so the result uses **will** + base verb. Not **to close**, because an order starts with the base verb.

6. I _____ this assignment if I _____ overtime.
✔ **B) could finish / worked**
This is a second conditional about an imagined present or future situation: **if** + past simple (**worked**), **could/would** + base verb (**could finish**). Not **would have finished / can work**, because a third conditional result can't go with a present if-clause.

7. If I _____ so late home, I _____ to meet your new tenant.
✔ **A) had not been / would have been able**
This is a third conditional about the past: **if** + past perfect (**had not been so late home**), **would have** + past participle (**would have been able to meet**). The speaker came home late, so they couldn't meet the tenant. Not **was not / would have**, because a past regret needs the past perfect in the if-clause.

8. If you _____ anything in the mail order catalogue, what _____?
✔ **E) could buy / would you buy**
This is an imaginary situation, so we use a second conditional: **if you could buy anything**, **what would you buy? Could** means 'were able to'. Not **bought / wouldn't you buying**, because **would** must be followed by the base verb **buy**.

9. Whenever they _____ for help, I always drop what I _____ to assist them.
✔ **D) ask / 'm doing**
Whenever and **always** show a habit, so the first verb is present simple: **they ask**. **What I'm doing** uses the present continuous because it is the activity in progress at that moment. Not **are asking / do**, because the habit needs the simple form and the activity in progress needs the continuous.

10. If you _____ with them on holiday, I _____ you my suitcase.
✔ **C) were to go / would be able to lend**
If you were to go is a second conditional form for an imagined future situation. The result uses **would** + base verb: **I would be able to lend you my suitcase**. Not **had to go / can have loaned**, because these forms don't match an unreal condition.

11. If I _____ the book last night, I _____ it with me so that you _____ it too.
✔ **A) had finished / would have brought / could read**
Last night shows a past situation that didn't happen, so we need the third conditional: **if I had finished**, **I would have brought it**. **So that you could read it too** gives the purpose, with **could** + base verb. Not **would have finished** in the if-clause, because the if-clause takes the past perfect.

12. _____ I in your shoes, I _____ that.
✔ **C) were / wouldn't have done**
Were I in your shoes is an inverted, formal form of **If I were in your shoes**, meaning 'if I were you'. Here the advice is about something already done, so the result is **wouldn't have done that** (a mixed conditional). Not **weren't**, because we don't use a negative in this inversion and the meaning would be wrong.

13. Were John to _____ that there was a possibility of an avalanche, I'm sure that he _____ the team go.
✓ B) have known / would not have let
Were John to have known is a formal inverted form of **If John had known**, about the past. The result is a third conditional: **he would not have let the team go**. Not **had known**, because after **to** we need the infinitive **have known**.

14. Although you _____ the jewellery, thieves still _____ it.
✓ D) have hidden / might be able to find
Although shows a contrast: the jewellery is hidden now, so we use the present perfect **have hidden**. **Might be able to find** shows a possibility that thieves can still find it. Not **had to hide / might have to find**, because the thieves are not obliged to find it.

15. If you _____ to give it back tomorrow, I _____ you the money you need to buy the blouse.
✓ E) promise / will loan
This is a first conditional about a real future possibility: if + present simple (**promise**), **will** + base verb (**will loan**). The word **tomorrow** shows a real plan. Not **promised / will have to loaning**, because **will** can't go with a past if-clause here, and **have to** must be followed by the base verb.

16. I _____ you my pencil on condition that you give it back as soon as you _____ it.
✓ B) will loan / are through using
On condition that works like **if**, so the main clause uses **will loan**. After **as soon as** we use the present for the future: **as soon as you are through using it**. **Be through (with/using)** means 'finish'. Not **are used to**, which means 'be accustomed to'.

17. What _____ if he _____ you the truth?
✓ C) would you do / were not telling
This is a second conditional about an imagined situation: **What would you do if he were not telling you the truth?** The past continuous **were not telling** describes something possibly happening now. Not **had you done / were to tell**, because **had you done** is not a correct result form here.

18. Suppose you _____ the truth and he _____ you, what would you do?
✓ A) were telling / didn't believe
Suppose works like **if**. With **what would you do?** we need unreal past forms: **you were telling the truth** and **he didn't believe you**. Not **are tell / was not to believe**, because **are tell** is not a correct verb form.

19. If you _____ that the plane _____ on time, then I _____ that you have not flown before.
✓ A) believe / is going to land / would say
The if-clause is about what you believe now, so it uses the present simple **believe**, and the plane's landing is a future prediction: **is going to land**. **I would say** is a polite, softer way of giving an opinion. Not **will be believing**, because **believe** is not normally used in the continuous and **will** is not used after **if** here.

20. I never _____ at my children unless they _____ me very angry.
✓ D) shout / make
Never and **unless** (= 'except if') describe a general habit, so both clauses use the present simple: **I never shout** ... **unless they make me very angry**. Not **shouting / are making**, because **never** needs a full verb, not an -ing form.

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