ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditional Sentences Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 18

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Explanations

1. If we _____ to Yedigoller and Abant when we _____ in Bolu, you would have never seen those places.
✔ **E) hadn't gone / were**
The result **you would have never seen** is a third conditional (past unreal), so the if-clause needs the past perfect: **If we hadn't gone**. The **when** clause only describes a past situation, so it takes the past simple: **when we were in Bolu**. Not **had been**: the stay in Bolu is not earlier than the trip, so there is no need for the past perfect.

2. _____ a thief coming through the door with a torch in his hand now, what would you do?
✔ **C) Imagine**
The imperative **Imagine** + noun + -ing (**Imagine a thief coming…**) introduces a hypothetical situation, followed by a second-conditional question (**what would you do?**). Not **Suppose that**: after **suppose that** you need a full clause with a finite verb (**Suppose that a thief came…**), not an -ing form.

3. I couldn't have arrived at work on time _____ I hadn't caught the train.
✔ **E) if**
This is a third conditional: **I couldn't have arrived… if I hadn't caught the train** (in fact I caught it and arrived on time). Plain **if** introduces the negative unreal condition. **Provided that**, **assuming that** and **supposing that** introduce a condition that is required or assumed, which does not fit a negative past condition here, and **if only** expresses a wish.

4. If you _____ more carefully, you wouldn't have made so many mistakes.
✔ **D) had worked**
The result **wouldn't have made** is a third conditional about the past, so the if-clause needs the past perfect: **If you had worked**. Not **worked**: the past simple goes with **would** + infinitive (second conditional).

5. If you _____ more carefully yesterday, you wouldn't be dealing with so many mistakes now.
✔ **E) had worked**
This is a mixed conditional: a past unreal condition (**yesterday**) with a present result (**now**). The past condition takes the past perfect: **If you had worked more carefully yesterday**, and the present result takes **would** + infinitive: **you wouldn't be dealing**. Not **worked**: the past simple would refer to the present, which clashes with **yesterday**.

6. If I had known that you were a careless driver, I _____ with you.
✔ **E) wouldn't have come**
If I had known is a past unreal condition, so the result is a third conditional: **would (not) have** + past participle → **I wouldn't have come with you**. Not **wouldn't come**: that refers to the present or future, but the coming with you already happened.

7. If it _____ during the night, the streets would have been wet. But now the streets are dry.
✔ **C) had rained**
The streets would have been wet is a third conditional, so the if-clause needs the past perfect: **If it had rained during the night**. The streets are dry, so it did not rain. Not **rained**: the past simple goes with **would** + infinitive.

8. Unless it rains, I _____ shopping tomorrow.
✔ **B) will go**
Unless it rains (= if it doesn't rain) is a first conditional about a real future possibility, so the main clause takes **will** + infinitive: **I will go shopping tomorrow**. Not **would go**: **would** is for unreal conditions and needs a past tense in the if-clause.

9. If we _____ a car now, I _____ you how to drive.
✔ **E) had / could teach**
We don't have a car now, so this is an unreal present situation: a second conditional with the past simple + **could**/**would** + infinitive → **If we had a car now, I could teach you**. Not **had had**: the past perfect refers to the past, not **now**.

10. If I _____ what happened to him last week yesterday, I _____ you before you came here.
✔ **D) had found out about / could have informed**
Both the condition (**yesterday**) and the result (**before you came here**) are in the past, so this is a third conditional: **If I had found out about…, I could have informed you**. Not **had found out about / would inform**: **would** + infinitive refers to the present, not to a past result.

11. If they _____ a map that day, they _____ their way in the country.
✔ **D) had had / could have found**
That day shows an unreal past situation, so we use the third conditional: past perfect + **could have** + past participle → **If they had had a map, they could have found their way**. Not **had / could have found**: the past simple **had** refers to the present, not to **that day**.

12. If I _____ his address, I _____ a letter by now.
✓ **A) knew / would have written**
This is a mixed conditional. The condition is unreal now (I don't know his address), so it takes the past simple: **If I knew**. **By now** shows a completed result up to the present, so it takes **would have** + past participle: **I would have written a letter by now**. Not **knew / could write**: **by now** needs a perfect form.

13. If I _____ that the traffic lights were red, I _____.
✓ **C) had realized / would have stopped**
This is about a past event, so we use the third conditional: **If I had realized..., I would have stopped**. Not **had realized / would stop**: **would stop** refers to the present, but the event is finished.

14. If I _____ in your shoes, I would buy these books immediately.
✓ **C) were**
If I were in your shoes (= if I were you) is a fixed second-conditional phrase for giving advice; formal English uses **were** for all persons. Not **would be**: we don't use **would** in the if-clause.

15. I'd go and see him every day if he _____ near my house.
✓ **E) lived**
I'd go (= I would go) shows a second conditional about an unreal present situation, so the if-clause needs the past simple: **if he lived near my house**. Not **would live**: **would** is not used in the if-clause.

16. If one gives that dog a bone, he _____ it right away. He is a digger.
✓ **C) will bury**
If one gives (present simple) describes a real, likely situation, so this is a first conditional: **he will bury it right away**. **He is a digger** confirms that this is what he really does. Not **would bury**: **would** needs a past tense in the if-clause.

17. Unless she _____ who it is, she won't open the outside door.
✓ **B) knows**
In a first conditional, the **unless**/**if** clause takes the present simple even when it refers to the future: **Unless she knows who it is, she won't open the door**. Not **will know**: **will** is not used after **unless**/**if** in conditions. **Know** is a state verb, so **is knowing** is also wrong.

18. If you _____ a grammar book, you can take mine.
✓ **D) need**
This is a real present condition with **can** in the result, so the if-clause takes the present simple: **If you need a grammar book, you can take mine**. Not **will need**: **will** is not normally used in the if-clause.

19. If you _____ in such a hurry, you _____ sugar instead of salt. That dish tasted so bad!
✓ **A) hadn't been / wouldn't have put**
That dish tasted so bad shows a finished past event, so we use the third conditional: **If you hadn't been in such a hurry, you wouldn't have put sugar...**. Not **weren't / wouldn't have put**: **weren't** would suggest you are generally in a hurry now, but the hurry was only at that time.

20. If you _____ smoking, you may be having problems with your habit.
✓ **A) have stopped**
This is a real condition, not an unreal one. The present perfect **have stopped** shows a recent action with a result now, and that result is **you may be having problems** (difficulties after giving up). Not **had stopped** or **would stop**: those forms belong to unreal conditionals.

21. If I _____ that you have been looking for a job for the last two weeks, I _____ you the job that I offered someone else.
✓ **E) had known / could have offered**
The job was already offered to someone else, so this is a third conditional about the past: **If I had known..., I could have offered you the job**. Not **knew / might have offered**: **knew** would mean you don't know now, but now you do know.

22. _____ it rains heavily, we cannot set off until it stops.
✓ **B) If**
If introduces a real condition: **If it rains heavily, we cannot set off**. Not **In case**: **in case** means 'as a precaution', for example **Take an umbrella in case it rains**. It does not mean 'if'. **Unless** (= if not) gives the opposite meaning.

23. If he _____ with us now instead of staying at school, we _____ to Abant all together.
✓ **D) were / could go**
Now and **instead of staying at school** show an unreal present situation, so we use a second conditional: **If he were with us now, we could go**. Not **was / could have gone**: **could have gone** refers to the past.

24. If you _____ a red traffic light, you _____.
✓ **D) see / have to stop**
This states a general traffic rule and obligation, which uses the present simple in both clauses: **If you see a red traffic light, you have to stop**. **See / may stop** is wrong in meaning because **may** expresses permission or mere possibility rather than obligation. The remaining options (**saw / will have to stop**, **had seen / have to stop**, and **see / would have to stop**) mix incompatible conditional verb forms.

25. If you _____ me that you were coming, I _____ time to meet you at the airport yesterday.
✓ **C) had informed / could have made**
Yesterday shows an unreal past situation, so we use the third conditional: **If you had informed me..., I could have made time to meet you**. Not **had informed / could make**: **could make** refers to the present or future, not yesterday.

26. If I _____ a rich man now, I _____ this car.
✓ **C) were / could buy**
Now shows an unreal present situation, so we use the second conditional: **If I were a rich man now, I could buy this car**. Not **had been / could have bought**: that is a third conditional about the past.

27. If you _____ hard yesterday, you _____ the problems now.
✓ **B) had studied / could solve**
This is a mixed conditional: a past condition (**yesterday**) with a present result (**now**). So we use the past perfect + **could** + infinitive: **If you had studied hard yesterday, you could solve the problems now**. Not **had studied / may solve**: **may** expresses a real possibility, but the situation is unreal.

28. If she _____ regularly during the term, she _____ last year.
✓ D) had studied / would have graduated
Last year and **during the term** refer to the past, so we use the third conditional: **If she had studied regularly, she would have graduated last year**. Not **had studied / had graduated**: the result clause needs **would have** + past participle, not the past perfect.

29. I'll lend you my book _____ you bring it back to me tomorrow.
✓ A) on condition that
On condition that means 'only if': **I'll lend you my book on condition that you bring it back tomorrow**. Not **unless** (= if not), which gives the opposite meaning, and not **even if**, which does not express a requirement.

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