ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditional Sentences Test Exercises – Multiple Choice Questions With Answers – Advanced Level 19

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Explanations

1. _____ the boss sees you walking along the coast in working hours?
✔ **C) What if**
What if + present simple asks about a possible situation and its results. It means **What will happen if…?** The question mark and the missing main clause point to it. Not **Unless** or **Even if**: they need a main clause after them.

2. _____ he were here now, he could help us with the problem.
✔ **C) If only**
If only + past subjunctive (**were**) is an emphatic **if** for an unreal present situation, here followed by the result **he could help us**. Not **What if**: it makes a question about a possibility, not an unreal condition.

3. If only I _____ that film. It was very boring.
✔ **D) hadn't chosen**
If only + past perfect expresses regret about the past. **It was very boring** shows the choice is finished, so we need **hadn't chosen**. Not **didn't choose**: **If only** + past simple refers to the present.

4. If you _____ see her, please give her my regards.
✔ **B) happen to**
If you happen to + verb means "if by chance you…". It is a polite way to talk about a possible, unplanned event: **If you happen to see her, say hello.** Not **would**: **if you would** is used for polite requests, not chance events.

5. If the boss _____ us talking instead of working, we could be fired.
✔ **B) were to see**
were to + infinitive in an if-clause presents a future event as hypothetical or unlikely. It matches the result **we could be fired**. Not **happen to hear**: with **the boss** it would need **happens to hear**.

6. _____ his unexpected death, Koca Yusuf would have been the world wrestling champion several more times.
✔ **D) But for**
But for + noun means **if it had not been for** ("without"). Here it goes with the past result **would have been** (third conditional): without his early death, he would have won more titles. Not **If** or **Unless**: they need a full clause with a verb, not just a noun phrase.

7. I could never have found such a good job, _____, thank you.
✔ **D) if it hadn't been for your help**
If it hadn't been for + noun means "without" something in the past. It pairs with the past result **could never have found** (third conditional), and **thank you** shows the help was real. Not **had it not been your help**: the inverted form needs **for** (**had it not been for your help**).

8. _____, I would have studied that subject harder.
✔ **C) Had I known that the subject of the exam would be geometry**
Had I known is the inverted form of **If I had known** (third conditional), and it matches **would have studied**. It is also the only option that names a subject, so **that subject** (geometry) makes sense. Not **If I have known**: the present perfect is impossible in this pattern.

9. She couldn't have reached the airport on time _____ the taxi driver had known the route very well.
✔ **E) unless**
unless means "if… not": she could not have arrived on time if the driver hadn't known the route. It is a third conditional with the past perfect **had known** and the result **couldn't have reached**. Not **so long as**: it means "on condition that" and gives the opposite meaning.

10. _____ her kindness, I wouldn't own such a pretty umbrella.
✔ **E) If it hadn't been for**
This is a mixed conditional. **If it hadn't been for** + noun refers to her past kindness, and **wouldn't own** is the present result. She gave the umbrella in the past, and I own it now. Not **Provided that**: it needs a clause and means "only if".

11. If the wall wasn't so high, I _____ over it now to get into our garden.
✔ **C) could climb**
Second conditional: **If** + past simple (**wasn't**), then **could** + infinitive for an unreal present situation. The word **now** shows the present. Not **could have climbed**: that refers to the past.

12. If the wall hadn't been so high, I _____ over it.
✔ **C) could have climbed**
Third conditional: **If** + past perfect (**hadn't been**), then **could have** + past participle (**could have climbed**) for an unreal past ability. Not **could climb**: that refers to the present.

13. If you _____ smoking, you _____ on weight. You are very thin.
✓ A) stopped / might put
Second conditional for an imagined present or future situation: **If you stopped smoking, you might put on weight. You are very thin** shows this is about now, like advice. Not **had stopped / would put**: the past perfect refers to the past.

14. If _____ his consideration, I would be waiting outside in this cold weather.
✓ D) it hadn't been for
Mixed conditional: **If it hadn't been for** + noun (his past kindness), with the present result **I would be waiting outside** now. Not **it wasn't**: the phrase needs **for** (**if it wasn't for**).

15. If she knew me better, she _____ badly at the dinner.
✓ C) wouldn't have behaved
Mixed conditional: an unreal present condition (**If she knew me better**) with an unreal past result (**she wouldn't have behaved badly**). The dinner is already over. Not **shouldn't have behaved**: that is criticism, not the result of a condition.

16. But for your contributions, this project _____ on time last month.
✓ B) couldn't have been completed
But for means **If it hadn't been for**. **last month** shows the past, so we need the third-conditional result **couldn't have been completed** (passive). Not **couldn't be completed**: that refers to the present or future.

17. Had he perceived that the roads were so slippery, he _____ so fast.
✓ E) wouldn't have been driving
Had he perceived is the inverted form of **If he had perceived** (third conditional). The result is **wouldn't have been driving**, a continuous form for an action in progress at that time. Not **wouldn't drive**: that refers to the present.

18. If you _____ to gain weight, you _____ more carbohydrates than your body is burning during the day.
✓ D) want / should get
This is a real, general piece of advice, so we use a first-conditional pattern: **If you want…, you should get…**. Not the **had wanted** options: the past perfect would make it an unreal past situation, which does not fit general advice.

19. You _____ your brown coat if it didn't have a stain at the back.
✓ D) could wear
Second conditional: **if it didn't have** (unreal present), then **could wear** (**could** + infinitive). Not **can wear**: **can** is used for real situations.

20. If we hadn't had a flat tire, we _____ at the hotel sooner.
✓ A) could have arrived
Third conditional: **If we hadn't had** (past perfect), then **could have arrived** for an unreal past possibility. Not **would not have arrived**: it gives the opposite meaning, since the flat tyre made us late.

21. If you _____ to bed earlier yesterday, you _____ late now.
✓ C) had gone / wouldn't get up
Mixed conditional: a past condition (**had gone… yesterday**) with a present result (**wouldn't get up late now**). Not **had gone / wouldn't have got up**: **now** shows the result is in the present.

22. If the democratic alternative to the totalitarian one-way broadcasts _____ a row of separate soap boxes, then I _____ that the alternative _____ unworkable.
✓ D) is / submit / is
The speaker treats the condition as a real premise, not an imaginary one. So we use present tenses throughout: **If… is…, then I submit that… is unworkable.** Here **submit** means "formally state or argue". The options with **were**, **would** or **had been** make the situation hypothetical and mix tenses inconsistently.

23. If I _____ a rich man, I _____ that car.
✓ C) were / would buy
Second conditional for an unreal present: **If I were…, I would buy…**. **were** is used for all persons in this pattern. Not **was / will buy**: **will** is wrong with an unreal condition.

24. If I _____ enough money yesterday, I _____ that shirt.
✓ B) had had / would have bought
yesterday shows an unreal past, so we need the third conditional: **had had** (past perfect of **have**) + **would have bought**. Not **had / could buy**: that is second conditional, about the present.

25. Had you brought your umbrella, you _____ so wet yesterday evening.
✓ E) wouldn't have been
Had you brought is the inverted form of **If you had brought** (third conditional). With **yesterday evening**, the result must be **wouldn't have been**. Not **wouldn't be**: that refers to the present.

26. If you _____ them to your birthday party last month, they _____.
✓ A) had invited / might have come
last month shows an unreal past, so we use the third conditional: **had invited** + **might have come** (a past possibility). Not **had invited / may come**: the result must also be a past form.

27. If I _____ in your shoes yesterday, I _____ her that she should deal with her problems herself.
✓ A) had been / would have told
yesterday shows an unreal past, so we use the third conditional: **If I had been in your shoes, I would have told her…**. Not **were / would tell**: that is second conditional, about the present.

28. If I _____ to attend the lesson now, I _____ you to go to the cinema.
✓ E) wanted / wouldn't ask
The word **now** and an unreal situation call for the second conditional: **If I wanted** (past simple) …, **I wouldn't ask** (would + infinitive) …. The speaker doesn't really want to attend the lesson, so he asks his friend to go to the cinema. Not **had wanted / wouldn't ask**: the past perfect refers to the past, which clashes with **now**. Not **wanted / won't ask**: **will** can't be the result of an unreal past-simple condition.

29. If ice _____ heated, it _____ to water.
✓ B) is / turns
Zero conditional for scientific facts: present simple in both clauses (**If ice is heated, it turns to water**). Not **were / would turn**: a fact is not an imaginary situation.

30. _____, we will be very late for the lesson.
✓ A) Unless we hurry
Unless means "if... not": **Unless we hurry** = **If we don't hurry**. It goes with the first-conditional result **we will be late**. Not **Unless we don't take the car**: **unless** already contains the negative, so adding **don't** makes a double negative.

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