ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Conditionals (If Clauses) and Wish Clauses Advanced Level Test – Quiz Online Exercise With Answers 1

Conditionals (If Clauses) Tests · 25 questions · Online test and questions PDF: https://englishtestsonline.com/conditionals-if-clauses-and-wish-clauses-advanced-level-test-quiz-online-exercise-with-answers/

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Explanations

1. If he _____ me tomorrow, I _____ some difficulty doing the work on my own.
✓ **A) weren't to help / would have**
Tomorrow shows a future condition, presented here as unlikely. **If + subject + were (not) to + infinitive** is a formal way to make a future condition more hypothetical, and the result clause takes **would + base verb**: **If he weren't to help me tomorrow, I would have some difficulty.** Not **didn't help / will have**: a past-tense if-clause cannot be paired with **will** in the result.

2. If the primary candidates _____ more on the issues, the results of the election _____ quite different.
✓ **A) had focused / would have been**
The election is over, so this is an unreal past situation: a third conditional, **if + past perfect, would have + past participle**. **If the candidates had focused more on the issues, the results would have been different.** Not **were focused / would have been**: **focus** is used actively here (the candidates focused on the issues), and the condition is about the past campaign, not a present state.

3. A: "Are you going to the theatre tomorrow?"

B: "No, but I wish I _____."
✓ **D) were**
After **wish**, a present or future situation that is not true moves one tense back. **I am going** becomes **I wish I were (going)**, and the rest of the verb is left out. In formal English **were** is used for all persons. Not **did**: the original verb is **be going**, so the auxiliary must be a form of **be**.

4. If I _____ so much vacation time, I _____ with you on the cruise to Miami next week.
✓ **E) didn't have / wouldn't go**
The speaker does have a lot of vacation time now, and the cruise is **next week**. This is a second conditional about an unreal present situation with a future result: **if + past simple, would + base verb**. **If I didn't have so much vacation time, I wouldn't go.** Not **weren't having**: **have** meaning possess is a stative verb and is not used in the continuous form.

5. If there is another earthquake next year, this building _____ it because it was built according to the new earthquake regulations.
✓ **C) should withstand**
The present tense **If there is** shows a real, possible future event, so this is a first conditional. The result clause needs a modal with a present or future meaning. **Should** expresses a confident expectation based on evidence: the building was built to the new regulations, so it **should withstand** the earthquake. Not **would withstand**: **would** belongs with an unreal condition in the past tense (**If there were...**).

6. If only I _____ then what I _____ now.
✓ **C) had known / realize**
If only expresses regret, like **wish**. The regret is about the past (**then**), so the first gap needs the past perfect: **had known**. The second gap is a real fact in the present (**now**), so it takes the present simple: **what I realize now**. Not **had known / realized**: past simple does not go with **now**.

7. She and her boyfriend _____ married now if only she _____ a scholarship to have an academic degree in the USA.
✓ **D) would be / hadn't got**
This is a mixed conditional: an unreal past condition with a present result. **If (only) + past perfect** refers to the past (she did get the scholarship), and **would + base verb** gives the imagined present result (**now**): **They would be married now if only she hadn't got a scholarship.** Here **if only** means 'if just this one thing had been different'.

8. If you _____ in a house, perhaps with a garage that has room for storing a telescope, then a larger instrument _____ you well.
✓ **A) live / could serve**
This is practical advice about a real possibility, so it is a first conditional. The if-clause uses the present simple (**live**), which matches **a garage that has room**. The result uses a modal of possibility: **a larger instrument could serve you well**. Not **lived / will serve**: a past-tense if-clause cannot be combined with **will**.

9. It was silly of me not to buy that dress. I wish I _____ it.
✓ **D) had bought**
The speaker regrets a past action (**It was silly of me not to buy**). For regrets about the past, use **wish + past perfect**: **I wish I had bought it.**

10. You are making a lot of noise. I wish you _____ making it.
✓ **E) would stop**
Wish + would + base verb is used to complain about someone's annoying behaviour and to say we want them to change it: **I wish you would stop making that noise.** Not **stopped**: the past simple after **wish** describes unreal states (**I wish I had a car**), not a request for someone to change an action.

11. It's a pity Jack is away. If only he _____ here.
✓ **A) were**
If only expresses a wish about the present that is not true (Jack is away). The verb moves back to the past: **If only he were here.** In formal English **were** is used for all persons.

12. He plays the piano so well. I wish I _____ it well, too.
✓ **C) could play**
To wish for an ability we don't have now, use **wish + could + base verb**: **I wish I could play it well.** Not **could have played**: that refers to an ability in the past.

13. I never studied at all when I was at school. I wish I _____ harder.
✓ **C) had studied**
The regret is about the past (**when I was at school**), so use **wish + past perfect**: **I wish I had studied harder.** Not **would have studied**: **would** is not used after **wish** to talk about the speaker's own past actions.

14. I'm sorry I mentioned it to him. I wish I _____ so.
✓ **E) hadn't done**
The speaker regrets something already done (**I mentioned it**), so use **wish + past perfect** in the negative: **I wish I hadn't done so** (= hadn't mentioned it). Not **didn't do**: the past simple after **wish** refers to the present, not to a past action.

15. It rains a lot here. I wish I _____ an umbrella.
✓ **B) had**
The speaker doesn't have an umbrella now. For a present situation we want to be different, use **wish + past simple**: **I wish I had an umbrella.**

16. You are very lucky. I wish I _____ you.
✓ **D) were**
This is an impossible present situation, so use **wish + past subjunctive**: **I wish I were you. Were** is the formal form for all persons. Not **would be**: **wish + would** is for wanting someone else to change their behaviour.

17. You are still standing there doing nothing. I wish you _____ as you are told.
✓ **E) would do**
The speaker is annoyed by the other person's behaviour and wants them to act differently. For this, use **wish + would + base verb**: **I wish you would do as you are told.** Not **should do**: **should** is not used after **wish**.

18. If someone _____ to be dead but the date of death is unknown, the notation 'dec.' ('deceased') _____.
✓ **B) is known / is used**
This states a general rule or convention, so it is a zero conditional with the present simple in both clauses. Both verbs are passive: someone **is known** to be dead, and the notation **is used**. The other clause, **the date of death is unknown**, also confirms the present tense.

19. Before you know where you are, you will realize that some of your best friends are living in the past, or at least wishing that they _____.
✓ **B) were**
After **wish**, an unreal present situation takes the past form. The full idea is **wishing that they were (living in the past)**, and the repeated words are left out. Not **had been**: the past perfect would mean a wish about an earlier time, but the friends' wish concerns the present.

20. We have run out of sugar. I wish we _____ so much of it.
✓ **A) hadn't wasted**
The waste happened before now (**We have run out of sugar**), so the regret is about the past: **wish + past perfect**. **I wish we hadn't wasted so much of it.** Not **shouldn't have wasted**: modal perfects are not used after **wish**.

21. If she _____ the national lottery, she _____ in a town on the south coast.
✓ **D) won / would live**
Winning the lottery is an unlikely, imaginary situation, so this is a second conditional: if + past simple, would + base verb. **If she won the national lottery, she would live in a town on the south coast.** Not **wins / lives**: a zero conditional is for general truths, not for an imagined result.

22. If historical obesity trends _____ through 2020 without changes, the proportion of individuals reporting poor health _____ by about 12 per cent, compared with 2000.
✓ **E) were to continue / would increase**
This is a hypothetical projection about the future, a formal second conditional. **If + were to + infinitive** presents the condition as a theoretical scenario, and the result takes **would + base verb**: **If trends were to continue, the proportion would increase.** Not **continue / would increase**: a present-tense if-clause goes with **will**, not **would**.

23. If the two companies _____ to a merger, then the difficult task of building a successful new business _____ achievable and affordable.
✓ **D) agreed / would be**
The merger is presented as an imaginary or uncertain future situation, so this is a second conditional: if + past simple, would + base verb. **If the two companies agreed to a merger, the task would be achievable.** Not **agree / would have been**: a present-tense if-clause cannot be paired with **would have** + past participle, which refers to an unreal past result. **Had agreed / was** and **have agreed / has been** also mix time frames that do not match.

24. Few people may realize it, but if they _____ problems climbing stairs or walking long distances, it _____ underlying heart trouble.
✓ **A) are having / may signal**
This is a real, general possibility in the present, so the if-clause uses a present tense. The present continuous **are having** stresses a current, ongoing problem. The result uses a modal of present possibility: **it may signal heart trouble**. Not **will have / may signal**: **will** is normally not used in an if-clause for a future or present condition.

25. If a child _____ in a class in the region, the parents would simply assume that the child _____ brains and send him to work.

✓ B) failed / did not have

Here **would** describes what parents used to do in the past (past habit), so the if-clause is in the past simple: **If a child failed...** The reported assumption also follows the past time frame: **assume that the child did not have brains**. Not **could not have** or **should not have**: the parents assumed a fact about the child, not a possibility or an obligation.

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