ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

INTERMEDIATE Test 18

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1	**A**	2	**A**	3	**D**	4	**C**	5	**D**	6	**A**	7	**B**	8	**A**	9	**C**	10	**D**
11	**A**	12	**A**	13	**C**	14	**B**	15	**A**	16	**C**	17	**B**	18	**D**	19	**B**	20	**A**

Explanations

1. If it _____ last weekend, we _____ to play tennis.
✓ **A) had rained / wouldn't have been able**
This is an imaginary situation in the past (**last weekend**), so we use the third conditional: if + past perfect, **would have** + past participle: **If it had rained, we wouldn't have been able to play tennis.** Not **rained / wouldn't be able**, because that is the second conditional, which is for the present or future, not for last weekend.

2. Give me Peter's letter. If I _____ him, I _____ it to him.
✓ **A) see / will give**
Meeting Peter is a real possibility, so we use the first conditional: **if + present simple**, **will + verb**. **If I see him, I will give it to him.** Not **saw / will give**, because **saw** in the if-clause needs **would**, not **will**.

3. I have to work about 80 hours a week, so I'm very busy. But if I _____ any spare time, I _____ a sport like golf.
✓ **D) had / would take up**
The speaker has no spare time, so this is an unreal present situation. It needs the second conditional: **if + past simple**, **would + verb**: **if I had any spare time, I would take up golf**. Not **had / will take up**, because **will** does not go with an unreal past-tense if-clause.

4. If I _____ taller, I _____ be a policeman, but I'm too short.
✓ **C) were / could**
The speaker is not tall (**I'm too short**), so this is an unreal present situation. We use the second conditional: **If I were taller, I could be a policeman. Were** is used for all persons here. Not **was / can**, because **can** doesn't fit an unreal situation.

5. Please, start your meal. If you _____ your soup now, it _____ cold.
✓ **D) don't have / will go**
This is a real possibility right now (**now**), so we use the first conditional: **if + present simple**, **will + verb**. **If you don't have your soup now, it will go cold.**

6. What noisy neighbours you've got! If my neighbours _____ as bad as yours, I _____ crazy.
✓ **A) were / would go**
My neighbours are not as bad as yours, so this is an unreal present situation. We use the second conditional: **If my neighbours were as bad as yours, I would go crazy.** Not **had been / would have gone**, because that form is for the past.

7. If you _____ any problems, let me know and I _____ and help you straight away.
✓ **B) have / will come**
Having problems is a real possibility, so we use the first conditional: **if + present simple**, **will + verb**. **If you have any problems, let me know and I will come.** Not **have / would go**, because **would** doesn't match a real possibility, and **come** is used when moving towards the listener.

8. You're a brilliant cook! If I _____ cook as well as you, I _____ a restaurant.
✓ **A) could / would open**
The speaker can't cook as well as you, so this is an unreal present situation. In the second conditional, the past of **can** is **could**: **If I could cook as well as you, I would open a restaurant.**

9. If there _____ some nice fish in the supermarket, _____ you _____ some for supper tonight?
✓ **C) is / will / buy**
Fish as food is uncountable, so we say **there is some nice fish**. Buying fish tonight is a real possibility, so we use the first conditional: **If there is some nice fish, will you buy some?** Not **was / will / buy**, because a past form in the if-clause needs **would**, not **will**.

10. I'm small. I wish I _____ small.
✓ **D) weren't**
To talk about a present situation we don't like, we use **wish + past simple**. I am small, and I want the opposite, so: **I wish I weren't small.** Not **were**, because that says the same thing as the real situation.

11. I'm small. If only I _____ taller.
✓ **A) were**
If only works like **wish**. For a present situation, it is followed by the past simple: **If only I were taller. Were** is often used for all persons.

12. "We have mice in the kitchen."

"If you _____ a cat, the mice _____ soon _____."
✓ **A) had / would / disappear**
The people don't have a cat, so this is an imagined present situation. We use the second conditional: **If you had a cat, the mice would soon disappear.** Not **had / will / disappear**, because **had** in the if-clause goes with **would**.

13. We live in the city. We wish we _____ in the country.
✓ **C) lived**
For a present wish, we use **wish + past simple**: **We wish we lived in the country.** Not **live**, because after **wish** we move the verb one tense back.

14. We live in the city. If only we _____ in the city!
✓ **B) didn't live**
They live in the city and want the opposite, so we use **if only + past simple** in the negative: **If only we didn't live in the city!**

15. I'm not having a holiday this year. I wish I _____ a holiday.
✓ **A) was having**
The real situation is in the present continuous (**I'm not having**). After **wish**, it moves back to the past continuous: **I wish I was having a holiday.**

16. I'm going to the dentist tomorrow. I wish I _____ to the dentist.
✓ **C) wasn't going**
I'm going (present continuous) moves back to the past continuous after **wish**. The speaker wants the opposite, so: **I wish I wasn't going to the dentist.** Not **am not going**, because we don't use present tenses after **wish**.

17. I can't ski. I wish I _____ ski.
✓ **B) could**
After **wish**, **can** becomes **could**: **I can't ski. I wish I could ski.**

18. I wasn't happy at school. I wish I _____ happy.
✓ **D) had been**
To wish something about the past was different, we use **wish + past perfect**: **I wish I had been happy at school.** Not **had had**, because the verb here is **be** (**happy**), not **have**.

19. He didn't pass his driving test. He wishes he _____ it.
✓ **B) had passed**
The test is in the past (**didn't pass**), so we use **wish + past perfect**: **He wishes he had passed it.**

20. I haven't been to Beijing. I wish I _____ to Beijing.
✓ **A) had been**
I haven't been (present perfect) moves back to the past perfect after **wish**: **I wish I had been to Beijing.** Not **have been**, because we don't use present tenses after **wish**.

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