



# Unit 4

## Conditionals: *If* Clauses and *Wish*



### Discover the Grammar

Janice and Kurt are planning their upcoming vacation. Read this passage, and then answer the questions that follow.

Line	
1	For each of the past eight years, Janice and Kurt have spent their vacation
2	time at home, either working in the garden or fixing up the house. This year,
3	however, they are planning to spend their July vacation somewhere else.
4	They've checked the Internet for weather information about areas of the
5	country they might like to visit. They are really eager to travel somewhere
6	soon. In fact, if they had free time right now, they would take their vacation
7	immediately, but they can't leave right now. They still have a couple of
8	months to explore their options.
9	So far, they have learned the following information. If they want to spend
10	their time near the water, they will have a hard time choosing among dozens of
11	outstanding beach resorts. For example, if they go to the beach in Atlantic City,
12	New Jersey, the air temperature will be in the mid-70s in July, and the water
13	temperature will be in the low 70s. That's very appealing to them. On the

14 other hand, if they chose to visit Miami Beach in July, both the air and the  
 15 water temperatures would be considerably warmer, around 85 degrees. That  
 16 sounds wonderful to them, too. Janice and Kurt also like to go camping, so  
 17 vacationing in the mountains is another option. They could choose to visit  
 18 the Rocky Mountains in Colorado if they wanted cooler weather. In July, the  
 19 temperature in the mountains can range from a high of 80 degrees to a low  
 20 of 40 degrees. If they go to the Rockies, they will certainly have to plan for  
 21 this type of weather variation.

22 It is without a doubt a tough decision that Janice and Kurt are facing. They  
 23 wish they were able to go to all of the places they have researched. If they had  
 24 more money and more time, they would be able to do exactly that. In fact, they  
 25 would have gone to both the beach and the mountains this year if they hadn't  
 26 recently spent so much of their savings on a new big-screen TV. They wish they  
 27 had realized this earlier!

1. Circle the eight examples of *if* and the two examples of *wish* in the passage.
2. Write the line numbers of the four *if* clauses that have simple past tense verbs. Write the subject-verb combinations from both the *if* clause and the main clause. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Lines	<i>if</i> Clauses	Main Clause
6	If they had ...	they would take ...

3. All four of these sentences are talking about the present time. What do you notice about the verbs in the *if* clause and in the main clause? Do you see any present tense verbs?

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4. Write the line numbers of the three *if* clauses that have simple present tense verbs. Write the subject-verb combinations from both the *if* clause and the main clause.

Line	<i>if</i> Clauses	Main Clause

5. All three of these sentences are talking about the future time. What do you notice about the verbs in the *if* clause and in the main clause? Do you see any future tense?

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6. Find the one *if* clause with past perfect tense. What time is this sentence talking about? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the verb in the main clause? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Find the two examples of *wish*. Are the verbs after *wish* talking about present or past time? What tense are they?

Line	Verb after <i>wish</i>	Tense	Time

8. What questions do you have about this grammar?

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## Grammar Lesson



### Real Conditionals in the Present or Future

A conditional sentence expresses the idea that the action in the main clause (the result clause) can only happen when a certain condition (the clause that begins with **if**) is fulfilled. The **if** clause states the condition, and the main clause states the result.

Real Condition <i>If</i> Clause	Result or Main Clause	Meaning
<b>If</b> the weather <b>changes</b> suddenly, simple present tense	I <b>get</b> a headache. simple present tense	factual
<b>If</b> it <b>snows</b> a lot tonight, simple present tense	they <b>will call off</b> school tomorrow. future tense	certainty/ prediction for the future
<b>If</b> you <b>have</b> time, simple present tense	you <b>should visit</b> the local museum. modal + VERB	advice/ suggestion/ warning for the future
<b>If</b> it rains, simple present tense	<b>don't open</b> the windows. imperative	instructions for the future

**Rule 1.** Real conditions express situations that can happen in the present or future. They are often used when **stating facts, general knowledge, habits, predictions, advice, or instructions.**

**Rule 2.** Real conditions in the **present (factual)** use the simple present tense form of the verb in both the **if** clause and the result.

**Rule 3.** Real conditions in the **future (real possibility)** use the simple present tense form of the verb in the **if** clause + **modal or modal phrase** (*should/can/could/may/might, will, be going to, have to*) and the base form of the verb or the imperative in the result clause.

**Rule 4.** **Negative forms** of the verb can be used in the condition or result clause or both.



## BE CAREFUL!

Common Learner Errors	Explanation
1. If it <del>will rain</del> <b>rains</b> tonight, I will call you for a ride home.	Do not use <b>will</b> or <b>be going to</b> in the <b>if</b> clause.
2. Tornadoes can cause severe damage to <del>a building,</del> <b>a building if</b> they touch down.	Do not use a comma after the result clause. Use a comma after the <b>if</b> clause.

### EXERCISE 1. Real Conditions in the Present or Future

Circle the real conditions from the list of items from a gardening pamphlet.

#### Five Sage Suggestions for Gardeners

1. If you choose the wrong plants for your garden, the plants will not grow.
2. The plants may not need fertilizer if the soil is rich.
3. If plants are covered with mulch, diseases cannot infect them so easily.
4. If weeds are not picked, the plants have to compete for water and nutrients.
5. If you put a small fence around your garden, it may help keep unwanted animals out.



## EXERCISE 2. Real Conditions in the Present or Future

Circle the correct verb in the **if** clause or result clause to make a real conditional in the present or future.

### Playing at the Park

Every weekend, if the weather is nice, I ❶ (will spend/spend) time outside with my children. One of their favorite things to do is to go to a nearby park. If we ride our bikes to the park, it ❷ (takes/will take) about 10 minutes. If there ❸ (is/will be) a lot of traffic, it takes a little longer. Once we get to the park, the kids choose their favorite playground equipment to play on. Jeffrey likes the climbing walls, but if he ❹ (climbs/will climb) too high, I start to get nervous. I always have to remind him, “If you’re not careful, you ❺ (fall/will fall) and hurt yourself.” His reaction is usually to roll his eyes at me. My daughter Cheryl loves to play on the seesaw. On the way to the park, she almost always asks me, “Mom, if there ❻ (is/will be) no one for me to play with, ❼ (do/will) you go on the seesaw with me?” If she ❽ (finds/will find) someone to play with at the park, she ❾ (will spend/should spend) the entire time on the seesaw. Sometimes I talk to the other parents who are there. After an hour or so, the kids and I ride our bikes back home. On the way, I tell them, “If the weather is nice next weekend, we ❿ (come/will come) back.”



## Grammar Lesson



### Unreal Conditions in the Present or Future

Unreal (imaginary) Condition or <i>If</i> Clause	Imaginary Result or Main Clause	Meaning
If he <b>had</b> time, simple past	he <b>could take</b> a long vacation. <b>would/could/might + VERB</b>	He doesn't have time. (present)
If I <b>were</b> you, simple past	I <b>would plan</b> the picnic for Sunday. <b>would/could/might + VERB</b>	I'm not you. (present)
If a hurricane <b>hit</b> the town, simple past	it <b>would destroy</b> everything. <b>would/could/might + VERB</b>	A hurricane will probably not hit the town. (future)
If she <b>joined</b> a travel club, simple past	she <b>might not feel</b> so lonely. <b>would/could/might + VERB</b>	She has not joined a travel club yet. (future)

**Rule 1.** Unreal conditions in the present or future express situations that are untrue, not possible, or imaginary in the present and that probably will not happen in the future. Although it is possible that the situation could change and become true in the future, it probably will not.

**Rule 2.** Unreal conditions in the present or future use the simple past form in the **if** clause and **would, could** or **might** plus the base form of the verb in the result clause.

**Rule 3.** Either clause, or both, can be made negative.



### BE CAREFUL!

Common Learner Errors	Explanation
1. If I <del>know</del> <b>knew</b> the answer right now, I would tell you.	Use the past tense for unreal conditions in the present.
2. If I <del>was</del> <b>were</b> you, I would memorize this rule about unreal conditions.	Use <b>were</b> instead of <b>was</b> for the verb <b>be</b> for all persons, singular and plural, in unreal conditions in the present or future. <b>Was</b> is used only in very informal language.

### EXERCISE 3. Identifying Present or Future Unreal Conditions in Context

Circle the condition that is unreal or probably won't happen.

#### Moving Away for a New Job

1. If I were you, I would accept the job in San Antonio.
2. I think you would regret it if you decided to stay here in Lincoln.
3. Of course we'd all miss you if you left this company, but we would all still keep in touch.
4. I'll bet you'd be more excited about leaving if it didn't mean having to pack.
5. If Alex had time, I'm sure he'd help you pack for your move.
6. If I weren't planning your going-away party, I'd help you pack, too.



### EXERCISE 4. Speaking Activity: Unreal Conditionals

Form a small group. Make a chain of conditionals: The first person will offer a sentence using an unreal conditional in the present or future. The second person will change the result clause in the original sentence to an unreal *if* clause and will add a new result clause. The third person will change the new result clause to an unreal *if* clause and will add a new result clause. How long can you keep the chain going? See the example if you need help getting started.

- Examples: Person 1—*If I had more time, I'd go to school full-time.*  
Person 2—*If I went to school full-time, I would study architecture.*  
Person 3—*If I studied architecture, I could design my own house.*  
Person 1—*If I designed my own house, I would . . .*



Do Online Exercise 4.1. My score: \_\_\_\_ /10. \_\_\_\_ % correct.



### EXERCISE 5. Unreal Conditions in the Present or Future

Terri and Ken, a married couple, are discussing whether Terry should accept a job promotion she was offered by her employer. Accepting the promotion means moving out of state. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb to make unreal conditions or results. The first one has been done for you as an example.

#### Terri's Job Promotion: Stay in Denver or Move to San Francisco?

*Terri:* I have to let the company know this week whether or not I'm going to accept the position of regional manager they offered me.

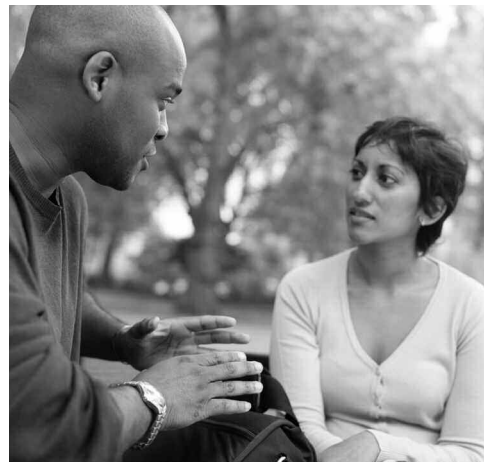
*Ken:* If there ❶ \_\_\_\_\_ (be, not) so many factors to consider, this  
❷ \_\_\_\_\_ (be) easy!

*Terri:* I know. If we ❸ \_\_\_\_\_ (like, not) living here in Denver so much, I ❹ \_\_\_\_\_ (jump) at the chance to move to San Francisco.

*Ken:* Yes, and if your salary ❺ \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) the same, it  
❻ \_\_\_\_\_ (be) easier to turn this job down, but they've offered you a big increase.

*Terri:* I've been talking to some people at work about it. One of them said, "Terri, if I  
❼ \_\_\_\_\_ (be) you, I  
❽ \_\_\_\_\_ (accept)  
that promotion in a heartbeat!"

*Ken:* I was thinking that if San Francisco  
❾ \_\_\_\_\_ (be) closer,  
you ❿ \_\_\_\_\_  
(commute) to work, but it's just too far for that.



*Terri:* Hmm . . . How ⑪ \_\_\_\_\_ (you, feel) if I just  
⑫ \_\_\_\_\_ (come) home on the weekends?

*Ken:* I ⑬ \_\_\_\_\_ (like, not) it if I only ⑭ \_\_\_\_\_  
(see) you two days a week.

*Terri:* Well, if I ⑮ \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the promotion, you  
⑯ \_\_\_\_\_ (have) to quit your job. How  
⑰ \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) about that?

*Ken:* I ⑱ \_\_\_\_\_ (be) okay with quitting if it  
⑲ \_\_\_\_\_ (mean) that we ⑳ \_\_\_\_\_ (have)  
more time together.

*Terri:* Then I guess we've decided! It's the right decision, isn't it?

*Ken:* If it ㉑ \_\_\_\_\_ (be, not), you ㉒ \_\_\_\_\_  
(have, not) that big smile on your face!

## EXERCISE 6. Mini-Conversations

Circle the correct words in parentheses in these mini-conversations.

1. *Sue*: What's wrong? You look really stressed out about something.

*Ben*: It's this research paper I'm writing. The outline is due tomorrow, and I'm still working on it. If I don't finish it tonight, I (get, will get, would get) an F!

2. *Sue*: Well, I can help you if you (need, will need, would need) it.

*Ben*: Really? That would be great! I get off work at 4:30. Man, I feel better already.

3. *Lynn*: Are you ready? Let's go. The movie starts in half an hour. We need to leave right now if we (want, wanted, will want, would want) to get there in time.

*Tim*: I know, I know, but I can't find my wallet.

4. *Lynn*: Can I do something to help you get ready?

*Tim*: Well, if you helped me look for it instead of telling me what time it was, that (is, was, would be) a big help.

5. *Lynn*: Okay. But let me say just one more thing: I'd keep my wallet in the same place every day if I (am, were, can be) you. That way I'd always know where it was.



### ONE-MINUTE LESSON

The word **get** has many meanings. One very common meaning is “arrive,” but the word *arrive* is more formal and less usual. Examples from conversation include:

*What time did you get to the meeting? When did you get there?*



## Grammar Lesson



### Unreal Conditions in the Past

Unreal Past Condition or <i>If</i> Clause	Result or Main Clause	Meaning
If we <b>had saved</b> more money, past perfect tense	we <b>could have taken</b> a longer vacation. <b>would/could/might + have + past participle</b>	We didn't save money, so we were not able to take a longer vacation.
If you <b>had been</b> on time, past perfect tense	we <b>would not have missed</b> the plane. <b>would/could/might + have + past participle</b>	We weren't on time, so we missed the plane.
If it <b>hadn't rained</b> so hard, past perfect	it <b>would have been</b> a perfect day. <b>would/could/might + have + past participle</b>	It rained hard, so it was not a perfect day.
If she <b>had bought</b> her ticket last spring, past perfect	she <b>might not have had</b> to pay so much. <b>would/could/might + have + past participle</b>	She did not buy her ticket last spring, so she had to pay a lot for it later.

**Rule 1.** Unreal conditions in the past express situations that did not happen. Consequently, it is impossible for the results of the situations to happen. Unreal conditions in the past are often used to express a regret about the situation.

**Rule 2.** Unreal conditions in the past use the past perfect form in the **if** clause and **would have, could have, or might have** plus the past participle of the verb in the result clause.

Sentences	Meaning
I <b>could have gotten</b> the job if I <b>had sent</b> in my resume on time.	I didn't get the job because I didn't send my resume in on time.
If they <b>hadn't read</b> the book, the ending of the movie <b>would have been</b> a surprise.	They read the book, so the ending of the movie was not a surprise.
He <b>might have won</b> the tournament if he <b>had trained</b> harder and more often.	He didn't win the tournament because he didn't train hard or often.



## BE CAREFUL!

Common Learner Errors	Explanation
1. If I <del>studied</del> <b>had studied</b> more last night, I could have done better on this morning's test.	The conditional sentence is talking about an unreal past event. Do not use simple past tense. Instead, you must use past perfect tense.
2. If he'd <b>had</b> more time, he'd <b>have taken up</b> a new sport. he'd <b>had</b> = he <b>had had</b> he'd <b>have taken up</b> = he <b>would have taken up</b>	Do not get confused by the contracted 'd form used with conditionals. The 'd can be either <b>had</b> or <b>would</b> .

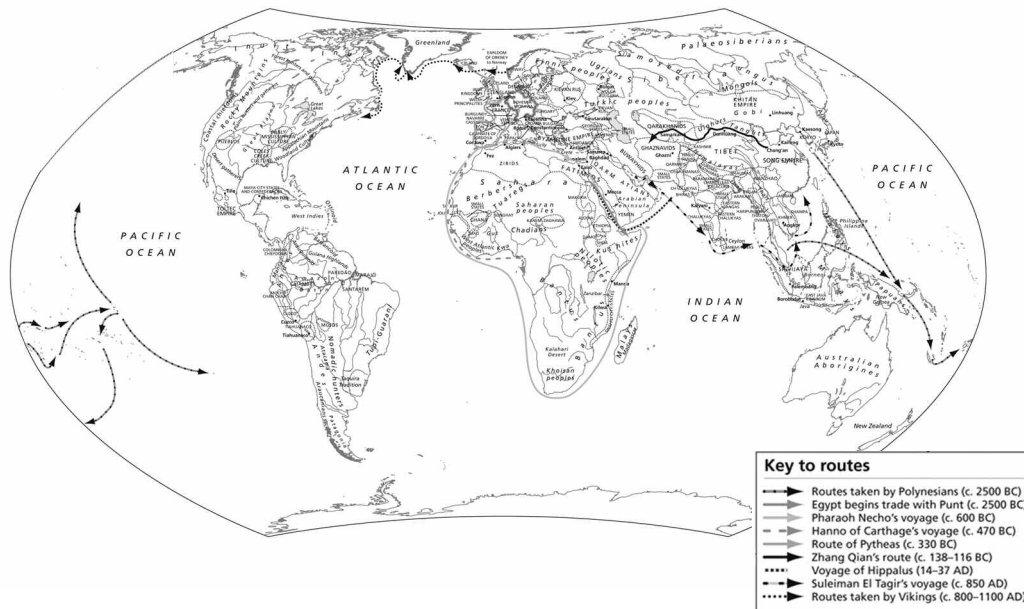
### EXERCISE 7. Past Unreal Conditions in Context

Read the passages about famous explorers. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb to make unreal conditions or results in the past.

#### Two Famous Explorers

Throughout history, we have benefited from the courageous explorers whose daring adventures opened new frontiers to us. Whether they set out to sail the seas, cross unexplored lands, or take to the skies in flight, they changed our perception of the world.

Vasco da Gama is one such explorer. He was the first European to sail from Europe (Portugal) around Africa to India and back. In 1497, with four ships, he made the trip to India in 23 days. The return trip, however, took almost four and a half months because of the monsoon winds. If he ① (listen) \_\_\_\_\_ to the advice of the local people and waited, he ② (lose/not) \_\_\_\_\_ more than half of his crew. He returned with only two of the four ships. If he ③ (wait) \_\_\_\_\_ a while before returning to Portugal, maybe all four ships ④ (return) \_\_\_\_\_ with him. Da Gama was a true adventurer, and his discovery brought the spice trade to Portugal.



Charles Lindbergh was an explorer of the skies who made the first solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. As a young man, Lindbergh's interest was in aviation. He dropped out of college to travel around the country performing airplane stunts for audiences at county fairs. In 1924, he joined the Army and received pilot training. Later, he was hired to fly mail between St. Louis and Chicago. If Lindbergh ⑤ (stay) \_\_\_\_\_ in school and ⑥ (study) \_\_\_\_\_ engineering, he probably ⑦ (become/never) \_\_\_\_\_ a pilot. In 1927, Lindbergh set a goal to be the first person to fly non-stop from New York to Paris and win a \$25,000 prize for doing so. On May 20, 1927, Lindbergh took off in his plane, the *Spirit of St. Louis*, and flew almost 4,000 miles across the Atlantic in 33.5 hours. After this historic feat, Lindbergh continued to promote aviation and even wrote a book about his transatlantic flight. If Lindbergh ⑧ (travel/not) \_\_\_\_\_ around the country on a post-flight tour, ⑨ people (consider/not) \_\_\_\_\_ aviation as a means of travel.



Do Online Exercise 4.2. My score: \_\_\_\_ /10. \_\_\_\_ % correct.

### EXERCISE 8. Stories from History and Unreal Conditions

These sentences express actual situations from history. Write the unreal condition for each situation. Remember to use **would**, **could**, or **might** in the result clause. The first one has been done for you as an example. To help you, underline the main verb in each clause in the given sentences. (*Hint*: It is awkward to have the date between the word **if** and the subject, so move the dates to the end of the original clause.)

#### Asking What If Questions about History

1. In 1969, Commander Neil Armstrong was the first man to walk on the moon, so Pilot Buzz Aldrin was not.

*If Commander Neil Armstrong had not been the first man to walk on the moon in 1969, Pilot Buzz Aldrin would have been.*

2. In 1769, Daniel Boone explored the frontier of Kentucky and was captured by the Indians there several times.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. In 1978, Sally Ride was one of 8,000 applicants to be accepted into the astronaut training program, and in 1983 she became the first woman to orbit Earth.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Robert Peary valued Matthew Henson's knowledge about travel and Eskimo ways, so Peary chose Henson to accompany him on his quest to become the first man to reach the North Pole.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Jonas Salk discovered a cure for polio in 1952, and millions of people have been spared from this crippling disease.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### EXERCISE 9. Speaking Practice: Applying Grammar to Your Own Examples of Facts and Unreal Conditions

Based on the last exercise, write two true situations of your own. Make sure each situation has two related events. Give your sentences to a classmate who will write an unreal condition for each sentence.

1. (my statement) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(unreal condition) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. (my statement) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(unreal condition) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Grammar Lesson



### Inverted Conditionals

It is possible to make unreal conditional statements about the present, future, or past without using **if**. These conditional statements, used only with **to be, should, and past perfect tense**, are called **inverted conditionals** because the subject and verb are inverted. Notice that **if** is omitted in these inverted conditionals.

Without <i>If</i>	With <i>If</i>
<b>Were</b> he here, he <b>would lead</b> the discussion skillfully.	If he <b>were</b> he here, he <b>would lead</b> the discussion skillfully. (present)
<b>Had</b> they <b>known</b> about the fundraiser, they <b>would have made</b> a donation.	If they <b>had known</b> about the fundraiser, they <b>would have made</b> a donation. (past)
<b>Had</b> I not <b>played</b> so badly, I could have won that match this afternoon!	If I <b>had</b> not <b>played</b> so badly, I could have won that match this afternoon! (past)





## BE CAREFUL!

Common Learner Errors	Explanation
1. <del>If had I studied</del> <b>Had I studied</b> more, OR <b>If I had studied</b> more, I would have gotten a higher score on the test.	If you invert the subject and verb, you must omit <b>if</b> .
2. <del>Worked I</del> <b>If I worked</b> at two jobs, I'd have a much better salary.	Use the inversion structure only with <b>to be, should, or past perfect</b> .

### EXERCISE 10. Inverted Conditionals Practice

Read the sentences. Where possible, omit the word **if**, and invert the subject and verb to form an inverted conditional sentence. If inverting is not possible, write an X on the line.

#### Buying a New House

1. They would have bought the house if they had been able to afford it.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If you skip the open house, you'll miss the chance to meet the realtor.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If you liked houses with small yards, I'd invite you to look at houses in my area.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. If you had offered them \$15,000 more, they'd have taken it and you'd have a house!  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Jill and Sam would have known what repairs the house needed if they had arranged for an inspection.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Grammar Lesson



### Progressive Forms and Mixed Time Conditionals

It is possible to use progressive tenses as well with conditionals. To learn this grammar well, many students memorize simple formulas such as **if** + present, then **will** (*If you study, you will pass the test*). These formulas are very helpful when both clauses are talking about events happening at the same time (have the same tense, such as present and present or past and past). However, it is possible to have a condition in one time and a result in a different time. In this case, you have a mixed time conditional sentence.

Condition or <i>If</i> Clause	Result or Main Clause	Meaning
If I <b>weren't working</b> on my report right now, <b>past progressive tense</b>	I <b>would be looking</b> at vacation websites. <b>would/could/might + be + base form of the verb + -ing</b>	an unreal condition in present and result in present
If we <b>were driving</b> a convertible in this rainstorm, <b>past progressive tense</b>	we <b>would be getting</b> soaked! <b>would/could/might + be + base form of the verb + -ing</b>	an unreal condition in present and result in present
If you <b>had been waiting</b> where we agreed to meet, <b>past perfect progressive tense</b>	we <b>could be enjoying</b> a great meal right now. <b>would/could/might + be + base form of the verb + -ing</b>	an unreal condition in past and result in present
If she <b>had watched</b> the news last night, <b>past perfect tense</b>	she <b>would know</b> what happened. <b>would/could/might + base form of the verb</b>	an unreal condition in past and result in present
If he <b>weren't</b> away on business, <b>simple past tense</b>	he <b>would have joined</b> us. <b>would/could/might + have + past participle</b>	an unreal condition in present and result in past

**Rule 1.** It is possible for conditional sentences to use the progressive forms of the verb.

**Rule 2.** It is also possible for conditional sentences to have different tenses in each clause.

**Rule 3.** The verb forms in the clauses change depending on two things: (1) whether the condition is real or unreal, and (2) whether the condition and result are in the present, past, or future.

## EXERCISE 11. Progressive Forms and Mixed Time Conditions

Fill in the blanks with the correct verbs to form progressive and mixed conditional sentences. Use the tenses indicated in parentheses. You may need negative forms.

### Comforting a Sick Friend

1. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (feeling/not) so sick, I \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) you to go to a movie. (present/present)
2. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (coughing) less, you \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) taking the medicine that makes you sleepy. (present/present)
3. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (eating) right, your immune system \_\_\_\_\_ (be) stronger. (past/present)
4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (blowing/not) your nose so much, it \_\_\_\_\_ (get/not) so red. (past/past)
5. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (be/not) your true friend, I \_\_\_\_\_ (give/not) you a hug. (present/past)
6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (call/not) me, you \_\_\_\_\_ (enjoying/not) my homemade chicken soup right now. (past/present)



#### ONE-MINUTE LESSON

**noun + noun combinations.** *Chicken soup* is a **noun + noun combination** that means that the second noun (*soup*) is made of the first noun (*chicken*). Similar items are *chocolate cake* and *potato salad*. Different items, however, are *pizza sauce*, which is not sauce that is made of pizza, and *cookie dough*, which is not dough that is made of cookies.



Do Online Exercise 4.3. My score: \_\_\_\_ /10. \_\_\_\_ % correct.



## Grammar Lesson



### Wishes in the Present, Future, or Past

Using the verb **wish** plus a clause about the wish is a very common construction in English, especially in spoken language. The verb after **wish** is one tense before the actual time. In other words, if you want to wish for the present time, use past tense. If you want to wish for the past time, use past perfect tense. If you want to wish for the future time, use **would**.

<i>Wish</i>	Meaning
I <b>wish</b> that I <b>had</b> today off. <i>wish</i> + subject + past tense form	I am working today.
I <b>wish</b> I <b>were lying</b> on a warm sunny beach right now. <i>wish</i> + subject + <i>be</i> + base form of verb + -ing	I am not lying on a beach.
He <b>wishes</b> she <b>would let</b> him have a week off. <i>wish</i> + subject + <i>would/could</i> + base form of verb	She will not let him have a week off.
They <b>wish</b> that they <b>hadn't spent</b> \$500. <i>wish</i> + subject + <i>had</i> + past participle	They spent \$500.
She <b>wishes</b> she <b>could have stayed</b> in Orlando one more day. <i>wish</i> + subject + <i>could/would</i> + <i>have</i> + past participle	She was not able to stay in Orlando an extra day.

**Rule 1.** Sentences with **wish** are similar in meaning to unreal conditions in the present, future, or past. The situation is imaginary, does not exist, or did not happen.

**Rule 2.** Using **wish** expresses the fact that you want the opposite of the real situation to be true.

**Rule 3.** The use of **that** between **wish** and the following clause is optional.



### BE CAREFUL!

Common Learner Errors	Explanation
1. I wish I <del>can</del> <b>could</b> play rugby better.	To make a wish about the present time, use the past tense. Don't use the present tense after wish.
2. We got home from vacation last night. We really wish we <del>had</del> <b>had had</b> more vacation time.	To make a wish about the past time, <b>use the past perfect tense</b> . Don't use the past tense for past time.

## EXERCISE 12. Practicing *Wish* in Context

Circle the correct form of the verb in this conversation.

### Summer Study Abroad

*Brad:* I'm not really looking forward to taking classes this summer, but it's something that I have to do. I wish I ❶ (can, could) travel instead. That's what I did last summer: I traveled around Spain for two months.

*Alan:* Where would you want to go this summer? Around the U.S.?

*Brad:* No, I really wish I ❷ (have, had) the money to go overseas again. In fact, I wish I ❸ (could, could have) spend an entire year overseas.

*Alan:* An entire year?

*Brad:* Yeah, don't you wish you ❹ (can, could) do something like that, too? You know, just take a break from school and do something else?

*Alan:* No, not really. I'm happy studying here. But I sure wish I ❺ (took, were taking) a heavier load so I could finish school sooner. I need to start making some money.

*Brad:* Not me. I'm happy taking just 12 credits every semester. My only wish is that I ❻ (didn't wait, hadn't waited) so long to start college after high school. It took me a while to figure out what I wanted to do.

*Alan:* You know what? I just remembered something, and it just might be what you're looking for. I wish I ❼ (knew, had known) where I saw it. It was a poster about studying abroad. You go overseas and get credit for it.

*Brad:* That sounds perfect! I wish I ❽ (got, could have gotten) credit for the time I spent in Spain last summer. I went to so many places and learned so much about the history and culture of Spain.

*Alan:* Maybe you still can if you take a test or write a paper. Hey, I remember now . . . I saw the poster near the International Center. It was a Study Abroad poster. Why don't you stop by and check it out?

*Brad:* I will. I wish I ❾ (knew, had known) about this program earlier. It sounds perfect for me. Thanks, Alan. Don't you wish you ❿ (are, were) able to come with me?



### Connecting Grammar and Vocabulary

It is possible to use hundreds of different verbs in the clause after *wish*. It is useful for you to learn some of the most common verbs used with *wish*.

Memorize these verb combinations so that you can write them or say them easily in English.

Top 5 Verbs after I wish I _____	Top 5 Verbs after I wish I could _____	Top 4 Verbs after I wish I had/'d _____
1. I wish I could	1. I wish I could have	1. I wish I had been
2. I wish I had OR I wish I'd	2. I wish I could say	2. I wish I had known
3. I wish I knew	3. I wish I could be	3. I wish I had done
4. I wish I were	4. I wish I could tell	4. I wish I had had
5. I wish I did	5. I wish I could do	

Source: Davies, Mark. (2011). Word frequency data from the Corpus of Contemporary American English (COCA). <http://corpus2.byu.edu/coca/>



### EXERCISE 13. Editing: Is it Correct?

If the sentence is correct, write a check mark (✓) on the line. If it is not correct, write an X on the line and circle the mistake. Then make the change above the sentence. (*Hint*: There are eight sentences. Three are correct, but five have mistakes.)

### Choosing the Right School

- \_\_\_ 1. If you research your options, you will make the right choice.
- \_\_\_ 2. You would need to choose an accredited school, if you thought about transferring.
- \_\_\_ 3. If you had talked to an advisor, he or she could suggest possible scholarships to apply for.
- \_\_\_ 4. If you had filled out your application sooner, you would heard from the Admissions Office earlier.
- \_\_\_ 5. If a student was to go to a community college, he or she would save money in lower tuition costs.
- \_\_\_ 6. Students often wish they had taken the SAT or ACT test earlier than they did.
- \_\_\_ 7. If universities will get lots of applications, they select the best students for admission.
- \_\_\_ 8. Josh had to pay out-of-state tuition during his first year of college here. Had he been a resident of the state, he could have been paid in-state tuition.



Do Online Exercise 4.4. My score: \_\_\_ /10. \_\_\_ % correct.

### EXERCISE 14. Sentence Study for Critical Reading

Read the numbered sentences. Then read the answer choices and place a check mark (✓) in the yes or no boxes in front of each sentence to show if that answer is true based on the information in the original sentence. If there is not enough information to mark something as yes, then mark it as no. Remember that more than one true answer may be possible.

1. My job as a business analyst requires me to work long hours and make important financial decisions. If I am under a lot of stress and need to relax, I take a book and go to the park, where I find a quiet spot to read. This helps me keep things in perspective.
  - yes**    **no**   a. I am under a lot of stress at work every day.
  - yes**    **no**   b. I go to the park to relax whenever I feel stressed by my job.
  - yes**    **no**   c. My job does not cause me to feel a lot of stress.
  
2. Brenda would give up her apartment and move overseas if she were able to find another job as a web designer in an Asian country.
  - yes**    **no**   a. Brenda is planning to move to Asia to work as a web designer.
  - yes**    **no**   b. Brenda lives in an apartment and works as a web designer.
  - yes**    **no**   c. Brenda has found another job in Asia.
  
3. If Jacob had not sold his baseball card collection when he moved to a smaller house, he would have had something of value to display in his new home office.
  - yes**    **no**   a. Jacob sold his valuable baseball card collection when he moved.
  - yes**    **no**   b. Jacob did not sell his valuable baseball card collection when he moved.
  - yes**    **no**   c. Jacob's baseball card collection is displayed in his new home office.
  
4. I'd be standing in line waiting to buy the newest cell phone if I hadn't signed a two-year contract for the phone I bought six months ago.
  - yes**    **no**   a. I am not standing in line waiting to buy a new cell phone today.
  - yes**    **no**   b. I signed a two-year contract for the phone I am currently using.
  - yes**    **no**   c. I bought a phone six months ago and I am in line to buy another one.

5. More students would enroll in college full time if they received financial help.
- yes**    **no**   a. Some students want to enroll in college full time but cannot.
- yes**    **no**   b. Some students study part time because they cannot afford to study full time.
- yes**    **no**   c. Some students enroll in college to study full time but want to study part time.

**REVIEW**

**EXERCISE 15. Review Test 1: Multiple Choice**

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. If you park in a restricted area, you \_\_\_\_\_ a ticket on your windshield.  
a. would find      b. will find      c. found      d. could found
2. I get nervous if I \_\_\_\_\_ in front of a group.  
a. had to speak      b. spoke      c. have to speak      d. will speak
3. If today \_\_\_\_\_ Friday, we could sleep in tomorrow morning.  
a. is      b. were      c. will be      d. was
4. If you \_\_\_\_\_ more sleep, you \_\_\_\_\_ be so tired all of the time.  
a. get/would      c. got/wouldn't  
b. got/won't      d. don't get/aren't going to
5. She \_\_\_\_\_ \$20 in finance charges if she \_\_\_\_\_ her bill by the due date.  
a. had saved/pays      c. could have saved/will pay  
b. could save/will pay      d. could have saved/had paid
6. They \_\_\_\_\_ such a big van \_\_\_\_\_ the price of gas would skyrocket.  
a. would have bought/if they knew  
b. wouldn't have bought/if had they known  
c. wouldn't have bought/had they known  
d. wouldn't have bought/had they knew



7. If I \_\_\_\_\_ so much in this class, I \_\_\_\_\_ here.
- a. wasn't learning/would be                      c. weren't learning/wouldn't be  
b. am not learning/won't be                      d. wasn't learning/wouldn't be
8. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ myself better in English, but I \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. will express/won't                                  c. would express/won't  
b. could express/can't                                d. can express/can't

**REVIEW**

**EXERCISE 16. Review Test 2: Production and Evaluation**

**Part 1.**

Read these conditional sentences. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb form.

1. My grandmother always used to say, "If it rains, it \_\_\_\_\_ (pour)."
2. Do you believe that if you \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) under a ladder, you'll have bad luck?
3. Imagine—if money \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) on trees, we'd all be rich!
4. I don't understand the meaning of the proverb, "If wishes \_\_\_\_\_ (be) horses, beggars would ride."
5. If John Pemberton \_\_\_\_\_ (invent, not) Coca-Cola in 1886, we \_\_\_\_\_ (drink, not) it today.
6. If you \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in the U.S. in 1824, you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) one of the first Americans to taste pretzels.
7. Do you ever wish you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) someone famous?
8. \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ (study, not) inverted conditionals in this chapter, we \_\_\_\_\_ (know, not) the answer to this!

**Part 2.**

Read each sentence carefully. Look at the underlined verbs. If the underlined part is correct, circle the word *correct*. If it is wrong, circle the word *wrong*. Then write the correction above.

correct    wrong    1. If I get home before 10:00 PM, I usually watch the local news.

correct    wrong    2. She'll sell me her old car if the bank approves her loan for a new one.

correct    wrong    3. I had volunteered to work at the library a few hours a week if they needed help, but no one has asked me.

correct    wrong    4. Were he to ask, he could receive extra tutoring help after class.

correct    wrong    5. If we would have bought them online, we could have gotten our concert tickets for half-price.

correct    wrong    6. If I had studied this chapter more thoroughly, I wouldn't be so confused by this sentence.





## EXERCISE 17. Reading Practice: Living Longer and Healthier

Read the information in this diet and health article. Then answer the comprehension questions that follow. The grammar from this unit is underlined for you.

### Live a Longer and Healthier Life

Do you wish you could live to be 100 or older? Do you wish you could be in perfect health your entire life? Well, you might just be able to get what you wish for! Recent scientific research has shown that if people practiced just five simple behaviors, they could not only prolong their lives but make them healthier as well. If you are willing to commit to leading a longer, healthier life, read on.

First, eat the right foods in the right amounts. Three-fourths of your plate should be filled with fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. If you cannot give up eating meat, choose lean meats. Eat poultry, fish, beans, and foods that are low in saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, salt, and sugar. People who wish they could more easily control the amount they eat may find that using a smaller plate will help.

Next, exercise at least 30 minutes a day at least three days a week. If you exercise five or more days a week or at least 75 minutes each time, the results will be even better for you. Choose the type of exercise you enjoy. If you don't have 30 consecutive minutes, then you can break it into three 10-minute periods and get some of the same benefits. Exercise helps increase muscle, strengthen bones, and improve balance. If you haven't exercised in a while, you should see your doctor before you begin a program. Not only will exercise improve your physical health, it also relieves stress and fosters good mental health.

Third, find time to volunteer in your community. If you volunteer even just a few hours a month, you will still get the benefits that helping others gives you. People who volunteer suffer less from depression and are less likely to have heart disease than those who do not volunteer.

In addition, if you want to live longer and be healthier, be sure to get sufficient sleep. If you are over the age of 18, you probably need seven to nine hours of sleep each night. If you cannot get that much sleep, take a short nap of 20–30 minutes per day.

Finally, it's important to drink water. The body is between 55 percent and 75 percent water, and water helps it metabolize fat and maintain muscle tone. You can get water through fruits and vegetables, but if you really want to be good to your body, you could simply drink lots of water!

These five behaviors are the keys to living a longer and healthier life. Imagine, if you had started these behaviors years ago, you would be way ahead of the game!

1. What is the author's purpose for writing this article?

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2. Who is the intended audience for this article?

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3. What are the positive effects associated with volunteering?

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4. What advice does the author give about beginning a new exercise program if you have not exercised in a while?

---

---

5. What are the five behaviors the author says will prolong a person's life?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_



**EXERCISE 18. Vocabulary Practice: Word Knowledge**

Circle the answer choice that is most closely related to the vocabulary on the left. Use a dictionary to check the meaning of words you do not know.

Vocabulary	Answer Choices	
1. commute to work	prepare to work	travel to work
2. sage	friendly	wise
3. consequently	the result of	the cause of
4. a feat	an amazing person	an amazing thing
5. a ladder	climb	destroy
6. call off	cancel	postpone
7. a down payment	the first payment	the last payment
8. be stressed out	be angry	be worried
9. a vet	for animals	for vehicles
10. a donation	money you earn	money you give
11. an expedition	a climate	a trip
12. a fee	you buy it	you pay it
13. soil	in a garden	in a race
14. design	plan	wonder
15. bald	no hair	no sun
16. to display	to manage	to show
17. courageous	angry	brave
18. tuition	for a hospital	for a school
19. outstanding	above average	below average
20. a factor	an element	a guess
21. issued	collected	distributed
22. an exit row	a plane	a supermarket
23. X is in dispute	we are not sure about X	we need to fix X
24. tough	difficult	easy
25. to range	to maintain	to vary
26. damage	after a storm	before a storm
27. on the other hand	however	therefore
28. look forward to X	we are afraid of X	we want X to happen
29. board a train	buy a train ticket	get on the train
30. weeds	a type of bad grass	a type of good grass



**EXERCISE 19. Vocabulary Practice: Collocations**

Fill in each blank with the answer on the right that most naturally completes the phrase on the left. If necessary, use a dictionary to check the meaning of words you do not know.

Vocabulary	Answer Choices	
1. a regional _____	manager	employee
2. _____ a doubt	within	without
3. the patient's physical _____	health	salary
4. _____ a goal	let	set
5. _____ an option	jump	explore
6. kidnap _____	someone	something
7. to be a resident _____ the city	of	for
8. a courageous _____	house	person
9. a _____ survey	satisfaction	satisfied
10. to suffer from mental _____	ill	illness
11. _____ a great deal of stress	below	under
12. keep something _____ perspective	in	of
13. devote a lot of _____ to X	luck	time
14. _____ a down payment	do	make
15. drop out _____ a club	about	of
16. many factors to _____	believe	consider
17. for the _____ being	present	time
18. _____ a suitcase	pack	try on
19. jump at the _____	chance	charge
20. _____ or negative	affirmative	optimistic
21. get _____ work at 4:30	off	on
22. _____ their website	check in	check out
23. _____ soil	delicious	rich
24. _____ damage	comfortable	severe
25. _____ to do something	eager	weak
26. to be away on _____	business	television
27. in _____ heartbeat	a	the
28. _____ a donation	do	make
29. a means of _____	money	travel
30. to orbit _____ the earth	around	finally
31. _____ from 92 to 100	dispute	range
32. an _____ feat	available	incredible
33. turn down a _____	job decision	job offer



## EXERCISE 20. Writing Practice: Motivating People

### Part 1. Editing Student Writing

Read these sentences about motivation and job satisfaction. Circle the 15 errors. Then write the number of the sentence with the error next to the type of error. (Some sentences have more than one error.)

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| _____ a. comma      | _____ d. subject-verb agreement          |
| _____ b. verb tense | _____ e. singular-plural of nouns        |
| _____ c. word order | _____ f. <i>this, that, these, those</i> |

#### Motivation in the Workplace

1. If employers want a successful business, their staff must consist of employees motivated.
2. If employees are not motivated this will result in the loss of many customer.
3. Today many employers wish, they know how to motivate their workers better.
4. There are several way to find out if your workers seems happy about their job conditions.
5. Having employees fill out worker satisfaction surveys is one way to obtain these information.
6. If a survey doesn't work you could try having informal meetings with the workers.
7. Sometimes this short meetings between the boss and a worker can solve many issues.
8. Many workers mention salary as one of the most important issue, but more money does not always lead to more satisfaction with the job.
9. For instance, if you had given your workers a raise last week, will they be happier today?
10. Some reports have shown that allowing workers to have some say in their work schedules are more effective in the long run.
11. In addition, allowing employees to make suggestions on how to improve the business often work.
12. You had attended my motivation seminar last week, you would now know exactly what to do!

## Part 2. Original Student Writing

Imagine that the employees at the company where you work are not very motivated. You have some ideas on how to change that, and your supervisor has asked you to put your ideas in writing. Write a short report listing and explaining 5 to 10 of your ideas. After each suggestion, add a sentence explaining the benefit that might result. Be sure to use conditional sentences in your report. Underline the grammar points that you have used so the teacher can see what you are trying to practice.

Example:

If people had a more flexible schedule, they could come in later and leave later.  
This would reduce tardiness.