

5. This is a case of contrary to fact (wish) so it must follow "were".

## CONDITIONALS

Conditional verb forms present special problems for test takers because of the complexity of the verbs and because of the contrary-to-fact information often contained in the sentences.

### Example:

Result clause	if clause
I would have come to Lahore	if I had known she were coming in this flight.

if clause	Result clause
If I had known she were coming in this flight,	I would have come to Lahore

There are four types of conditional sentences:

- Real present
- Real future
- Unreal present/future
- Unreal past

### Real present conditional sentences

If the situation is true in present, use real present conditional. This form is usually used to express general truths. A present tense is used in the if clause and a present tense is used in the result clause.

### Example:

present	present
If it is hot,	we use air-conditioner.

present	present
If it is raining,	we may carry our umbrellas.

### Real Future Conditional Sentences

If the situation is true or at least possible in future, use a real future.

### Example:

future	future
If it rains tomorrow,	we will carry our umbrellas.

Imperative verb forms are also possible in the result clause.

### Example:

future	future
If it is raining tomorrow	he will have already gone for the picnic.

If the action in future is less likely to happen, use modal "should".

### Example:

future	future
If I should find a snake,	I will kill it.

### Unreal Present/Future Conditional Sentences

If the idea is impossible or highly doubtful, use present/future conditionals

### Example:

doubtful condition	result
If Pakistan won the next World Cup,	the entire world would be shocked.

The time reference in this type of conditional is either to a repeated, habitual event in the present.

### Example:

doubtful repeated action	future
If you studied harder,	you would have better grade.

### Use of would, could, or might

If + simple past/past progressive, subject + would/could/might + simple form of the verb

### Examples:

doubtful condition	result
If Pakistan won the next World Cup,	the entire world would be shocked.

A past tense verb in an if clause refers to the unreal present and not the past.

Progressive forms are possible in the result clause.

### Example:

unreal present	result- progressive
If he were working in the office at night,	his wife would be sleeping.

### Unreal Past Conditional Sentences

If the situation did not occur in the past, use unreal past conditional. In such sentences, the speaker is

imagining the past as different from the way it happened. The speaker is talking about "the way things could have been" under a different set of conditions.

### Examples:

unreal past	result
If there had been more time,	I would have finished the book in time.

### Use of would, could, or might

If + past perfect/past perfect progressive, subject + would/might/could + have + past participle.

### Examples:

progressive past	result
If you hadn't been smoking for a long,	you would never have lung carcinoma.

As with the unreal present, the result clause may contain a progressive form.

### Example:

unreal past	result
If I had taken that job with so little money,	I would have been watching every penny I spent.

### Mixed Conditionals

It is possible to mix certain conditions. It is quite common, for example, to mix an unreal past if clause and an unreal present result clause.

### Example:

unreal past	unreal present
If you had worked in Abbott,	you would use medical terms effectively.

real past	unreal present
If I hadn't met you last week,	I would be going to Japan today.

### Omitting the Word if

Sometime the word if can be omitted from a conditional sentence. If can be omitted:

- In an unreal past condition
- In an unreal present condition if the main verb or auxiliary verb is be (were)
- In a real future condition that contains the modal should

If the word if is omitted, the subject and the auxiliary are reversed, and the sentence begins with a verb.

### Examples:

start with verb	unreal past
Had he called me,	I would not have been so angry.

### Other Examples:

If she hadn't called me, I would never have heard the news.

Had she not called me, I would never have heard the news.

If it weren't such a long drive, I would have gone.

Were it not such a long drive, I would have gone.

If you shouldn't manage to find her, please let me know.

Should you not manage to find her, please let me know.

Occasionally, Test makers will try to confuse you with the passive form of the verb. The passive construction switches the object and the subject, and the "be" verb is added to the past participial verb.

## PRACTICE EXERCISE

1. If the applicant for a new IT job in US \_\_\_\_\_ more on the interview preparation, the results of their efforts would have been quite different.
  - A. have focused
  - B. had focused
  - C. focused
  - D. were focused
2. If \_\_\_\_\_ the match, I will go to Lahore to meet the sports board chairman.
  - A. I will win
  - B. I win
  - C. I shall win
  - D. I wins
3. If \_\_\_\_\_ your job, what would you do?
  - A. you had lost
  - B. you have lost
  - C. you loss
  - D. you lost
4. If I \_\_\_\_\_ there, I would make a speech.
  - A. had been
  - B. have been
  - C. were
  - D. was

5. Unless a student \_\_\_\_\_ with the college regulations, he can be removed from the college.
- A. will comply            B. had complied  
C. complies                D. complied
6. A corporation would stand to lose a great deal of money if agreements \_\_\_\_\_ followed.
- A. have not been        B. had not being  
C. are not being        D. were not being
7. If I \_\_\_\_\_ form that company, I would get a good job.
- A. had experience  
B. would have experience  
C. would has experience  
D. would had experience

### Answers

1	B	2	B	3	D	4	C	5	C
6	D	7	D						

### Explanations

1. Refer to review section, Mixed conditional.
2. Refer to the review section. Real future conditional.
3. Refer to the review section. Unreal future/present conditional.
4. Refer to the review section. A past tense verb in an if clause refers to the unreal present and not the past.
5. Refer to the review section. Real Future Conditional Sentences.
6. Refer to the review section. Real present conditional sentences
7. Refer to review section, Mixed conditional.