

# Conditionals

## Conditionals with *if*

1 **1.07** You are going to listen to four short extracts, where people talk about winning the lottery. How would their lives change if they won?

2 Explain what the contracted verb forms are in these examples of conditional sentences. How do the sentences differ in their use of tenses?

- a If I won the lottery, I'd buy a beautiful house in Spain.
- b If I hadn't won, I wouldn't have been able to afford the flight.

Which types of conditional sentences are a and b? Choose from 0–3.

- 0 a situation that happens often
- 1 a situation that may happen in the future
- 2 a situation that is unlikely to happen
- 3 a situation that could have happened in the past, but didn't

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3 Match the two halves of each sentence.

- a If you did more revision, ...
  - b If it snows, ...
  - c If I have time, ...
  - d If Helen comes round, ...
  - e If there had been a vote, ...
  - f If they finish early, ...
  - g If you swam regularly, ...
  - h If I'd known about the risk, ...
- 1 we'll get our skis out.
  - 2 she'll be able to tell you.
  - 3 Sam and Bernie usually have a coffee.
  - 4 you'd pass the exam.
  - 5 I'd never have eaten seafood.
  - 6 they would have lost.
  - 7 I like to walk to work.
  - 8 your body would be in better shape.

## Conditionals with *unless*

4 Read these examples and explain the meaning of *unless*.

- a We'll miss the start of the match unless Juan arrives soon.
- b Unless you've already got tickets, you won't be able to get in.

### Corpus spot

Correct any mistakes with *unless* that exam candidates have made in these sentences. Tick the correct sentences.

- a There will be no improvement in my tennis unless I don't get some training.
- b I will not remain silent about the letter unless you give me my money back.
- c People hardly ever use candlelight today unless there isn't anything wrong with the power supply.
- d There isn't much to do in the city unless you haven't got friends.
- e You must stop working so hard unless you don't want to end up in hospital sooner or later.
- f If there were no televisions, we wouldn't know much about other countries unless we visited them.

5 There are eight mistakes with tenses in this story. Correct the mistakes and fill the gaps with *if* or *unless*. Examples have been done for you.

Yesterday was a very bad day. (0) *!f* it ~~wasn't~~ *hadn't been* raining, perhaps it wouldn't have been so difficult. The thing is, I never drive to work (1) ..... it's raining. But it was pouring and I needed to get to an important meeting, so I took the car. It broke down on the way. (2) ..... I had it serviced regularly, I know it won't be so unreliable, but garages charge so much these days that I don't bother. I decided to call the breakdown company on my mobile phone. Well, I would have done that (3) ..... my mobile hasn't run out of battery! Never mind, I thought, (4) ..... I'll find a public phone, I'll be able to call from there (5) ..... it's out of order! It was, so I can't! By this time, I was in a panic. What will my boss say (6) ..... I didn't get to the meeting? (7) ..... people don't arrive on time, he will get really angry with them. Luckily, a taxi pulled up. 'Mason Square,' I shouted, 'and (8) ..... you will do the journey in under ten minutes, I'll pay you double!' 'Forget it,' said the driver. 'The centre of town's gridlocked. You'd never get there in ten minutes (9) ..... you went by helicopter.' So I ended up late for the meeting and the boss was furious with me.

