6.2 GRAMMAR

Conditional clauses – alternatives to *if*

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 Match the beginnings of the sentences with the endings and then choose the correct options.

You'll miss the end of the film e
1 If you read the instructions, ☐
2 If you didn't know it was computer animation, ☐
3 I wouldn't have believed it, ☐
4 If Pinocchio tells the truth, ☐

a you *wouldn't / would* believe it was real.
b if I *hadn't / had* seen it with my own eyes.
c you *won't / 'll* be able to do it yourself.
d his nose *doesn't grow / grows*.
e if you *stay / don't stay* awake.

2 ★ Complete the sentences with *unless* or *provided/providing*.

Don't invest in this risky business unless you are willing to lose all your savings.
1 Most cats will be perfectly OK on their own all day _____ you leave them some food.
2 Exams are unfair _____ you can guarantee that no one cheats.
3 _____ the fish actually moves, it is virtually impossible to spot it because of its camouflage.
4 _____ you don't look too closely, you can't tell the watch is a fake.
5 Mike exaggerates, but he's good company _____ you take what he says with a pinch of salt.
6 It's impossible to look so wrinkle-free at the age of 72 _____ you've had plastic surgery.

3 ★★ Put the words in the correct order to complete the conditional questions.

you/imagine/could/a super-power/choose
Imagine you could choose a superpower, which would you choose?
1 been/suppose/the Apollo moon landings/had/fake
_____ ,
could the space shuttle programme really have happened?
2 I/I/said/didn't want/university/to go to/supposing
_____ ,
what would you say?
3 imagine/have to/didn't/go to school/we/today
_____ ,
what would we do instead?
4 you/been born/had/imagine/fifty years ago
_____ ,
how might life be different?
5 you/imagine/any job/could have
_____ ,
what would you like to be?

4 ★★ Match answers a–e to questions 1–5 in Exercise 3.

a Well, to start with, there'd be no Internet or mobile phones. ☐
b I doubt it. The technology to build it wouldn't have existed. ☐
c We'd stay home and watch films all day. ☐
d I'd ask what you planned to do instead. ☐
e A brain surgeon. Or perhaps an astronaut. ☐

5 ★★★ Rewrite the sentences using inversion to make them more formal.

If I had taken what he said at face value, I would have made the wrong decision.
Had I taken what he said at face value, I would have made the wrong decision.
1 If I should not return, tell my family I love them.
_____ ,
tell my family I love them.
2 If Helen wasn't so two-faced, I'd ask for her opinion.
_____ ,
I'd ask for her opinion.
3 If the announcement hadn't been so ill-timed, fewer people would have objected.
_____ ,
fewer people would have objected.
4 If you should see Meredith, please give her our love.
_____ ,
please give her our love.
5 If it wasn't summer, our journey through the mountains would be impossible.
_____ ,
our journey through the mountains would be impossible.

SHOW WHAT YOU'VE LEARNT

6 Complete the text using the words in the box. There are two extra words.

had imagine not provided should ~~supposing~~ unless were would

Supposing you were asked to define reality, what would you say? [1] _____ something very strange happened during the night, your world is roughly the same today as it was when you went to sleep yesterday. You are still you, and the past remains unchanged. [2] _____ you looked out of your window this morning, you would have seen the same view as last night and, [3] _____ you didn't develop incredible powers of prediction as you slept, the future is still unknown, just as it was yesterday at this time. To put it another way, you woke up to reality.

However, [4] _____ you curious enough to ask a philosopher or scientist to define reality, you would probably get a rather more complicated answer. [5] _____ it turned out that reality was actually an illusion, how [6] _____ you feel? Well, some deep thinkers believe exactly this, and in his new book Professor Brian Sixsmith attempts to make their ideas accessible to the everyday reader.

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