

1st and 2nd conditionals No.3

Exercise 1. Change the form in brackets using WOULD / WOULDN'T + infinitive or the past tense.

- A. My session with the Humans Resources department didn't go too well.
B. Really? Why not?
A. Well, firstly they said there was almost no chance of promotion in this country. There is an opportunity in the Spanish office, but that's impossible. If I _____ (accept) the job in Madrid, I _____ (not/spend) any time with the family.
B. Couldn't you all move there?
A. No, because if we all _____ (move) to Spain, the children _____ (need) to change schools, and we don't want them to do that. And if we all _____ (go), Laura _____ (have) to give up her job, and I can't ask her to do that.
B. Did they have any other ideas?
A. They said there were more opportunities in the IT department, but that's not a solution either. Even if I _____ (start) next week, I _____ (not/get) a senior position for at least three years, and that is too long. So I don't really know what I'm going to do.

Exercise 2. Imaginary present situations

Rewrite the following sentences with IF and the 2nd conditional. USE CONTRACTED FORMS.

E.g. The reason we don't use them is that they are so expensive.
But if they weren't so expensive, we'd use them.

- The reason I can't contact them is that I haven't got their address.
But if I _____.
- The reason I work so hard is that I enjoy my job.
But if I _____.
- The reason we are the market leaders is that we spend so much on R&D.
But if we _____.
- The reason I can't give you an answer is that I haven't got the authority.
But if I _____.

Exercise 3. 2nd conditional. Complete the sentences with the CORRECT FORM of verbs in the box.

change	be	think	speak	apply	be	earn	be	get	produce
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- I think I might _____ the job in Paris if I _____ for it, but I'm not interested in it.
- If I _____ you, I'd _____ very carefully before investing.
- It's a pity you have refused to talk to him. He might _____ his mind if you _____ to him personally.
- It's a pity the circulation of the magazine is so low. If it _____ higher, we could _____ a lot more from advertising.
- If our labour costs _____ lower, we could _____ cheaper goods.

Exercise 4. FIRST OR SECOND CONDITIONAL?

Read through the following sentences. Decide whether the events are likely or imaginary, and put the verbs in brackets into the right tense. WRITE FULL FORMS!

1. If everyone _____ (contribute) 20% of their salaries to charity, there _____ (be) no poverty.
2. I am confident that we _____ (meet) our targets if we _____ (maintain) our current levels of sales.
3. If I _____ (be) in your position, I _____ (insist) on having more staff in the department.
4. Please have a seat. If you _____ (wait) a couple of minutes, I _____ (give) you a lift.
5. I _____ (apply) for the job if I _____ (have) an MBA, but unfortunately I haven't.
6. I _____ (be) back at 8.30 if the traffic _____ (not/be) too bad.
7. What laws _____ (you/change) if you _____ (be) the Prime Minister?

Exercise 5. Match the sentence halves.

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| 1. I think that if you offer them concessions, | A. would you make a firm order? |
| 2. If I didn't win so many deals, | B. will you make a firm order? |
| 3. If they bother to pay promptly, | C. they'll do the same. |
| 4. If they pay within 30 days, | D. they'd do the same. |
| 5. If we give you a larger discount, | E. we'd offer a 5% cash discount. |
| 6. If we were able to give you a larger discount, | F. we'll offer a 5% cash discount. |
| 7. If you paid late, | G. we'll have to close your account. |
| 8. If your payment is overdue, | H. we'd have to close your account. |
| 9. Perhaps if you offered them some concessions, | I. my commission would decrease. |