

1. Reading

Read the article about a Scottish football team and answer the questions.

1. Which team has FortWilliam won against?
2. How old are FortWilliam's players ?
3. How much money did the team receive recently?
4. Where do FortWilliam's fans come from?
5. Why do the team's players enjoy playing for FortWilliam?

FortWilliam finally wins a match!

Are they really the worst football team in the UK?

1. It wasn't a big victory, but when FortWilliam won 5- 2 against Nairn County, fans were **celebrating**. The win follows 73 defeats **in a row** for the team from Western Scotland.
2. The part-time club is trying to move up in the Highland League, but there's still a long way to go. One disadvantage is the young age of their players. "If the players were older and more **experienced**, the team would win more matches", says one fan. Another fan says the problem is not the player's ages, but their fitness. "If our players were fitter, they wouldn't be so tired in the last 15 minutes of the matches."
3. The Highland League includes teams with **a wide range of abilities**, so Fort William is playing against teams with ex-professional players. Of course, Fort William would **attract** better players if they had more money. A crowdfunding page on Youtube has recently raised £5000 for the team. This isn't much money, but Fort William has fans around the world. If they weren't **the underdog**, they wouldn't have so much **support**.
4. Players on the team enjoy the friendly atmosphere at training and matches. They are playing for the love of the game. And they may feel that if they won their matches, there would be a lot more stress for them all.
5. So, despite the poor scores, it seems that FortWilliam is, in many ways, a very **successful** team.

Sources: bbc.co.uk, news.sky.com, theguardian.com

Read the article again and match the words/phrases in bold with their meanings below. Then explain your words to your partner.

1. catch someone's attention:
2. enjoying special activities after a positive event:
3. having a skill or understanding of something because you have done it many times:
4. positive help and good wishes from people:
5. getting a positive result after trying to do something:
6. lots of different types of players, from very bad to very good:
7. the person or team who no one expects to win:
8. without a break or change, one after another.

Do you think that winning is the most important thing in sports?

2. Language point

Read these sentences and the information and answer the questions.

- If the players were older and more experienced, the team would win more matches.
- If our players were fitter, they wouldn't be so tired in the last 15 minutes of the matches.
- FortWilliam would attract better players if they had more money.
- If they weren't the underdog, they wouldn't have so much support.

These sentences are called **second conditional** sentences, which explain **causes** and **effects**, or **reasons** and **results**. These sentences have two **clauses**. A clause is a piece of a sentence which includes a **subject** and a **verb**.

1. Which words introduce the cause/reason?
2. Which verb tense is used for the cause/reason?
3. Which verb form is used for the effect/result?
4. Are these sentences about the past or the present/future?
5. Do we always need to include a comma to separate the two clauses?

Compare these two sentences.

1. If they win their matches, there will be a lot more stress for them all.
2. If they won their matches, there would be a lot more stress for them all.

Now, answer these questions:

1. How are the verbs different in these sentences?
2. In which sentence do we think that the team is unlikely to win their matches?

We often use the second conditional to imagine how something could be different, even though it's not possible for this thing to change.

- The reality: **They don't win their matches**, so there's not much stress for them.
- What we imagine: **If they won their matches**, there would be a lot more stress for them.

How does the verb change when we imagine a different reality?

3. Practice

Use a second conditional to express the information in the sentences. The meaning should stay the same. Use contractions with **would where possible.**

Example:

- He doesn't like training, so he's not very fit.
- *If he liked training, he'd be fit.*

They always lose their matches, so they're definitely the underdog.

1.

You aren't a big fan of the team, so you don't understand how I feel about the defeat.

2.

He's not a professional player, so he's not very experienced.

3.

The players are under a lot of stress, so they're not playing well.

4.

She doesn't have a lot of money, so she won't buy tickets for the match.

5.

We win most of our games, so we have a high position in the league.

6.

The other team attracts good players because they're very successful.

7.

We feel very confident about the future because this is our third victory in a row.

8.

4. Speaking

Complete the second conditional sentences with your own ideas.

- If I _____, I would celebrate with my friends and family.
- If my team lost 10 times in a row, I would _____.
- If _____, we would attract more visitors to my country.
- If I were more experienced, I would _____.
- If we kept score for this activity, _____.
- If children learned in a classroom with a wide range of abilities, they would _____.
- If _____, I would be more successful in learning English.
- If an underdog won the election, _____.
- If _____, you would have a lot more stress in your life.
- If I were a professional football player, _____.

5. Extra practice / homework

Find and correct the mistakes in these sentences. If the sentence is correct, write a tick X next to it.

1. If we attract better players, we'd win more games.
2. We'd be so happy if our team won the match with a high score.
3. If the team had a few more victories, we had have a party to celebrate.
4. If more fans supported the team, they enjoyed playing more.
5. If our next match ends in defeat, I would stop supporting the team.
6. We'd be very pleased if our team would win three games in a row.
7. If the team paid the players more money, they will attract professional players.
8. If the team didn't have players with a wide range of abilities, they would be in a better league.

6. Optional extension

Read the text and match the words in bold with their meanings.

*I support a women's football team called the London Bees. When they play at their home **stadium**, the Hive (in Edgware, North London), their **strip** is orange and black. Their **captain** is Merrick Will. They have a female **manager**, Sian Osmond, but some of their **coaches** are male.*

*Women's football is definitely as exciting as the men's game. Nothing beats the excitement of watching your team on the **pitch**, scoring a **goal**, and taking **penalty** kicks.*

1. a free kick that a team gets when the other team breaks a rule:
2. a large space with no roof, where people play and watch sports:
3. a point in some games, which a team gets when they get the ball into this place:
4. the area where people play football:
5. the clothing that a team wears, which shows the team colours:
6. the leader of a sport team:
7. the person who organizes a sports team:
8. the person who trains players:

Use these words to talk about a team in your town, a team you support or your favourite player.