

Exercise 5

Read the information. Then read the first sentences. Complete the rewritten sentences using the verbs in brackets. Sometimes more than one answer is correct.

Second, third and mixed conditionals are used to talk about hypothetical situations in the present and the past and are often used to imagine an alternative situation that differs from reality. For example:

Second conditional

Reality: I don't know about ancient history. As a result, I can't help my son with his homework.

Hypothetical alternative: If I knew about ancient history, I could help my son with his homework.

Third conditional

Reality: The Romans invaded Britain. They founded the city of London.

Hypothetical alternative: If the Romans hadn't invaded Britain, they wouldn't have founded the city of London.

Mixed conditional

Reality: The Berlin Wall came down in 1989. As a result, Germany is now one of the most prosperous countries in Europe.

Hypothetical alternative: If the Berlin Wall hadn't come down in 1989, Germany wouldn't now be one of the most prosperous countries in Europe.

1. The princess doesn't speak French, so she couldn't speak to the president without an interpreter when he visited last week.

If the princess spoke French, she _____ (speak) to the president without an interpreter when he visited last week.

2. The government didn't vote on the issue last week, so there isn't a trade deal in place at the moment.

If the government had voted on the issue last week, there _____ (be) a trade deal in place now.

3. The expedition led by the explorer Robert Scott in 1912 never reached the South Pole because the weather conditions got worse.

The expedition led by the explorer Robert Scott in 1912 would have reached the South Pole if the weather conditions _____ (get) worse.

4. Many Egyptian treasures were stolen from the pyramids, because the robbers knew how to break into the secret burial chambers.

If the robbers hadn't known how to break into the secret burial chambers, they _____ (steal) the Egyptian treasures.

5. The prince doesn't play Australian Rules football, so he didn't accept the invitation to take part in a friendly match during the royal tour of Australia.

If the prince _____ (play) Australian Rules football, he could have accepted the invitation to take part in a friendly match during the royal tour of Australia.

6. The king's sister carries out many official royal duties, but last month she didn't attend the opening of parliament, because she broke her leg in a skiing accident.

7. If the king's sister hadn't broken her leg in a skiing accident, she _____ (attend) the opening of parliament.