



Conditionals in the past

1 Read the stories and answer the question.

- What do the three stories all have in common?

2 Read the sentences about the stories. Choose the correct alternatives to complete them.

A After a morning of last-minute sightseeing on holiday, my partner and I jumped into a taxi. We asked the driver to stop by our hostel on the way to the airport and both ran in to grab our suitcases. A big mistake! When we came out, the taxi had disappeared, along with our small rucksacks, which contained cash and some souvenirs. Luckily, I'd insisted we keep our passports in a money belt. It was impossible to find the driver, as we couldn't even remember what company the taxi was from.

- 1 If one of us had stayed in the taxi, we _____ our things.
a wouldn't have lost b would have lost
- 2 It _____ worse if we had kept our passports in our rucksacks.
a had been b would have been
- 3 If we _____ the taxi number, we might have been able to trace the driver.
a had noted b noted
- 4 If we hadn't been leaving that day, we _____ the incident to the police.
a had reported b could have reported

B I was taking my first exam at university and I couldn't believe how many pages there were. I flipped to the back: ten questions! I knew the material, but I only managed to answer seven questions. After the exam, my friend told me that it said on the front that we only had to answer three of the questions. Oops! From then on, I was very careful to always read exam instructions!

- 1 If I _____ the instructions carefully, I wouldn't have written so many answers.
a would read b had read
- 2 If I hadn't tried to write so many answers, I _____ more time on each question.
a couldn't have spent b could have spent
- 3 If my friend hadn't pointed it out, I _____ my mistake!
a might not have realised b might realised
- 4 I _____ so careful with instructions now if I hadn't had this experience.
a wouldn't have been b wouldn't be

C I was watching a film at my friend's house. After it finished, I realised that I had knocked over my black coffee on their new cream carpet. Despite our best efforts to clean it, we couldn't remove the mark. My friend said it didn't matter, but I could tell she was really annoyed. Now I can't drink black coffee anymore because it reminds me too much of that incident!

- 1 If I wasn't so careless, I _____ over my drink.
a wouldn't have knocked b would have knocked
- 2 If I _____ the spill straight away, we might have been able to remove the mark.
a would notice b had noticed
- 3 If their carpet hadn't been a light colour, the mark _____ so obvious.
a couldn't have been b wouldn't have been
- 4 I might still drink black coffee if I _____ so guilty about ruining the carpet.
a didn't feel b felt

