## "The Fork in the Road"

Emma was about to accept a job offer in New York — a dream she had worked toward for years. The contract was ready, the bags were almost packed, and the goodbye dinner was planned. But on the night before her flight, she got a phone call. Her grandfather had suffered a stroke and was in critical condition. Without hesitation, Emma canceled her trip and stayed to help her family.

In the months that followed, she discovered that her hometown had opportunities she'd never considered. She started volunteering at a local youth center, and through that, she met someone who later became her business partner. Together, they opened a mental health non-profit that now supports hundreds of teenagers across the region.

Sometimes, Emma wonders how different her life would have been if she had taken that flight. But one thing is clear — if she hadn't stayed, she wouldn't have found her true calling.

Life rarely goes as planned. But the roads we take, even unexpectedly, often lead us exactly where we're meant to be.

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### Comprehension Questions

1. What was Emma's original plan? _____
2. Why didn't she go to New York? _____
3. What did she do instead? _____
4. What was the long-term result of her decision? _____
5. Does Emma regret her choice? _____

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### True or False

1. Emma accepted a job offer in London. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
2. She had already packed for her trip. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
3. She stayed because of a family emergency. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
4. She opened a business alone. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
5. Her non-profit helps teenagers. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
6. Emma planned to volunteer from the start. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
7. She regrets not going to New York. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
8. She found meaning in an unexpected path. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
9. Her grandfather fully recovered. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED
10. The story shows how one choice can change everything. TRUE / FALSE / NOT MENTIONED

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## Vocabulary & Idioms Matching

**Match the phrases to their meanings:**

1. a fork in the road
2. a dream come true
3. to pack your bags
4. without hesitation
5. your true calling
6. out of the blue
7. to take a leap
8. as planned
9. support (verb)
10. lead somewhere

**Meanings:**

a) a sudden and unexpected event

b) to offer help

c) to go exactly as expected

d) to make a bold decision

e) the purpose you're meant for

f) a point where a decision must be made

g) to end up in a place/situation

h) a long-held goal achieved

i) immediately, with no doubt

j) to get ready for a trip

☑ **Answers:**

1. ___
2. ___
3. ___
4. ___
5. ___
6. ___
7. ___
8. ___
9. ___
10. ___

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## Grammar: Third Conditional

**Structure:**
👉 *If + past perfect → would have + past participle*

**Use:** To imagine different outcomes for things that didn't happen (unreal past).

**Examples (related to Emma's story):**

- If Emma had taken the job, she wouldn't have started the non-profit.
- If her grandfather hadn't gotten sick, she would have left for New York.
- She would have lived in New York if she had accepted the offer.

## Grammar Practice Exercise 1 – Fill in the blanks

**Complete the third conditional sentences:**

1. If I _____ (know) about the meeting, I _____ (attend) it.
2. She _____ (pass) the exam if she _____ (study) more.
3. They _____ (not crash) if they _____ (drive) more carefully.
4. If we _____ (book) earlier, we _____ (get) cheaper tickets.
5. He _____ (help) us if he _____ (be) available.
6. If you _____ (call) me, I _____ (come) right away.
7. We _____ (not get lost) if we _____ (follow) the map.
8. If she _____ (not eat) that, she _____ (not feel) sick.
9. You _____ (see) him if you _____ (arrive) on time.
10. If I _____ (take) the job, I _____ (move) to another city.

**Read each sentence and choose the correct third conditional version. Only ONE is correct.**

1. *He didn't apply for the job, so he didn't get it.*

   a) If he had applied for the job, he would get it.

   b) If he had applied for the job, he would have got it.

   c) If he applied for the job, he would have got it.

2. *She forgot her keys and got locked out.*

   a) If she hadn't forgotten her keys, she wouldn't have got locked out.

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b) If she didn't forget her keys, she wouldn't have got locked out.

c) If she hadn't forgotten her keys, she wouldn't get locked out.

3. *They didn't check the weather, and they got soaked.*

a) If they checked the weather, they wouldn't have got soaked.

b) If they had checked the weather, they wouldn't have got soaked.

c) If they had checked the weather, they wouldn't get soaked.

4. *He wasn't honest, so he lost her trust.*

a) If he had been honest, he wouldn't have lost her trust.

b) If he was honest, he wouldn't have lost her trust.

c) If he had been honest, he wouldn't lose her trust.

5. *They didn't save money, and they couldn't travel.*

a) If they had saved money, they could have travelled.

b) If they saved money, they could have travelled.

c) If they had saved money, they can travel.

6. *She didn't come early, so she missed the surprise.*

a) If she had come early, she would have missed the surprise.

b) If she had come early, she wouldn't have missed the surprise.

c) If she came early, she wouldn't miss the surprise.

7. *I didn't listen to advice, and I made mistakes.*

a) If I had listened to advice, I wouldn't have made mistakes.

b) If I listened to advice, I wouldn't make mistakes.

c) If I hadn't listened to advice, I would have made mistakes.

8. *We didn't bring snacks, so we were hungry.*

a) If we had brought snacks, we wouldn't have been hungry.

b) If we brought snacks, we wouldn't be hungry.

c) If we had brought snacks, we wouldn't be hungry.

9. *She didn't answer the call, so she missed the news.*

a) If she answered the call, she wouldn't have missed the news.

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b) If she had answered the call, she wouldn't have missed the news.

c) If she had answered the call, she wouldn't miss the news.

10. *He didn't leave on time and missed the train.*

a) If he had left on time, he wouldn't have missed the train.

b) If he left on time, he wouldn't have missed the train.

c) If he had left on time, he didn't miss the train.

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