

GRAMMAR First, second, third and mixed conditionals

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 If teachers *had allowed / allow* creative students to daydream, they would be better prepared for their future.
- 2 Students *would have / will have* difficulty in the future if education doesn't include creativity because we are going to need workers who can think creatively.
- 3 How can we expect students to be creative if their assignments *have / would have had* very specific instructions?
- 4 If students *are / were* taught that there's only one solution to a problem, they won't be able to imagine creative solutions.
- 5 Students *are / would be* better prepared to be scientists or musicians if we didn't expect them to focus on memorizing facts and formulas.
- 6 If students *have been / were* able to decide what they want to learn about, they would be more interested in the subject.

Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1 If we *hadn't played / didn't play* the video game, we *aren't / wouldn't have been* in such a good mood, which often makes us more creative.
- 2 If you *would meditate / meditate*, you *will be able to think / could think* about a problem differently and perhaps come up with a new solution.
- 3 If you *had exercised / exercised* more often, your body – and mind – *are / would feel* more relaxed, which makes it easier to have creative ideas.
- 4 If you *look / would look* at something blue, you *had thought / might think* more clearly. (According to researchers, we associate blue with the sea, sky and openness.)
- 5 If you *had taken / took* a walk outdoors, you *could think / thought* more creatively. (Being outdoors stimulates all five of your senses, which can stimulate creativity.)
- 6 We *hadn't been / mightn't have been* distracted by the background noise if we *had gone / went* to a café to do our work.
- 7 If I *hadn't taken / haven't taken* a nap, I *can think / wouldn't have been able to tackle* the problem in a creative way.

Correct the verb forms in bold. Sometimes there is more than one correct answer.

- 1 If creative people daydream, or let their minds wander, sometimes new ideas **came** into their minds while they are thinking about something else.
- 2 There would probably be fewer distractions if you **would work** late at night or early in the morning, like Benjamin Franklin or Ernest Hemmingway.

- 3 Creative people **were able to plan** their days more effectively if they know when they do their best work.

- 4 If they **hadn't taken** failure personally, creative people could learn from their mistakes and not be afraid of taking risks.

- 5 If J.K. Rowling hadn't been able to work anywhere, at any time, she **hadn't written** the *Harry Potter* books.

- 6 Beethoven and Tchaikovsky might not have been such brilliant composers if they **didn't walk** every day for exercise.

- 7 If creative people **are** motivated by money or awards, they mightn't find challenges so exciting.

17 Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 If she _____ (know) how other people solved similar problems, she _____ (find) a way to solve this problem.
- 2 You _____ (understand) the problem differently if you _____ (think) about it in a more creative way.
- 3 If I _____ (not start) listening to how other people solved their problems, I _____ (not learn) so many different ways of solving the problems I've been having.
- 4 She _____ (be) inspired to be more creative if she _____ (surround) herself with creative people when she starts university next month.
- 5 If he _____ (try) to solve his problem backwards, he _____ (understand) the problem differently, but he doesn't see that.
- 6 He _____ (not start) listening to what other people have to say if he _____ (not realize) how important it is.
- 7 If we _____ (not draw) a picture representing our problem, we _____ (not find) this amazing solution!
- 8 You _____ (realize) how similar these problems are if you _____ (research) different problems.