

| <i>Unreal conditional</i>                         |  |
|---|--|
| If Clause: Simple Past                            | Result Clause: would (not) + infinitive verb.                  |
| If Mia had money,<br>If she were* rich,           | she would live in a palace.<br>she wouldn't live in a cottage. |
| If Mia didn't have money,<br>If she weren't rich, | she wouldn't live in a palace.<br>she would live in a cottage. |

\*with the verb be, use were for all subjects.

Complete this article from a popular psychology magazine. Use the correct form of the verbs.

Marty Hijab has always wanted to invite his whole family over for the holidays, but his apartment is small, and his family is very large. "If I (invite) invited them all for dinner, there (not be) \_\_\_\_\_ enough room for everyone to sit down," he told a friend. If Marty (be) \_\_\_\_\_ a complainer, he (moan) \_\_\_\_\_ about the size of his apartment and spend the holiday at his parents' house. But Marty is a problem solver. This year he is hosting an open house. People can drop in at different times during the day, and there will be room for everyone.



"If life (be) \_\_\_\_\_ a fairy tale, we (can/wish) \_\_\_\_\_ " problems away," noted therapist Joel Grimes. What complainers are really saying is, 'If I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a magical solution, I (not have to deal) \_\_\_\_\_ with this myself.' I wish it (be) \_\_\_\_\_ that easy," says Grimes. He gives an example of a very wealthy client who complains about his limited time for his family. "He's waiting for a miracle to give him the time he needs. But if he (think) \_\_\_\_\_ about the problem creatively, he (can / find) \_\_\_\_\_ the time," says Grimes.

Even the rich have limited time, money, and space. If complainers (realize) \_\_\_\_\_ this, then they (undersrtand) \_\_\_\_\_ that there will always be problems. They could then stop complaining and look for solutions. Marty is a student. If he (insist) \_\_\_\_\_ on a bigger apartment for his party, he (may/have to wait) \_\_\_\_\_ for years before inviting his family over. Instead, he is creatively solving his problems right now.

There's an old saying: "If wishes (be) \_\_\_\_\_ horses, then beggars (can/ride) \_\_\_\_\_. " But wishes aren't horses. We have to learn to create our own good fortune and not wait for a genie with three wishes to come along and solve our problems.