

Conditionals 2

I WISH, IF ONLY

TASK Choose the correct continuation for each sentence:

1. *I wasn't taking notes, and now I can't remember what she said.*

a) **I wish I took notes.**

b) **I wish I'd taken notes.**

2. *This is a very unusual situation.*

a) **I wish I'd known what to do.**

b) **I wish I knew what to do.**

3. *Our offices are in the city centre and the rent is very high.*

a) **I wish we were outside the centre.**

b) **I wish we are outside the centre.**

4. *They gave the job to an external candidate, but now they regret it.*

a) **They wish they hadn't done it.**

b) **They wish they didn't do it.**

5. *I can't enter the system because I don't have the password.*

a) **If only I would have the password.**

b) **If only I had the password.**

6. *There are too many similar models on the market now.*

a) **If only we launched our version earlier.**

b) **If only we had launched our version earlier.**

7. *I'm worried about the meeting next Friday. We need to reach an agreement.*

a) **I wish we succeed.**

b) **I hope we succeed.**

Ways of introducing conditionals

Conditionals can be introduced in a variety of ways other than *if*.

unless = means *if not* in the sense of *except if*. Can be used both in the beginning and in the middle of the sentence.

- Unless there is a strike, I'll be at work tomorrow.

in case = means the first action is a precaution (= *preventivní opatření*). It happens because the second action might happen. Compare:

- I'll take my umbrella in case it rains.
- I'll take my umbrella if it rains.

supposing / suppose / imagine = mean the same as *imagine if?* or *what if?*

The condition here is more improbable, so they are more often found with the second and third conditionals. They come at the beginning of the sentence.

- Supposing you could fly, where would you go?

provided / providing (that), as / so long as = mean the same as *on condition that*.

They are more often found with the first conditional.

- I'll go to the party, provided you go.

2. In more formal styles *if* can be dropped and the auxiliary verb inverted.

- Were you to question me about the matter, I would deny all knowledge.
- Had I known that he was a journalist, I would have said nothing.

Words other than if:

TASK Underline the correct word:

- a) Providing/Supposing there were no wars, would't that be wonderful?
- b) I'm going to take a cushion to the concert, in case / unless the seats are hard.
- c) We'll miss the beginning of the film, so long as / unless you hurry.
- d) Providing / In case you behave yourself, you can come to the party with us.
- e) Suppose / Were I your teacher, I'd make sure that everyone did the homework.
- f) He will never be happy as long as / unless he's got that boring job.
- g) Had / Supposing I understood the problem, I'd have done something about it.
- h) Should / Provided you fail to pay this bill, court action will be taken.

