

Denis (9 continually|urge) me to lend him money for a business venture which he says (10 pay) his creditors back handsomely. I always (11 refuse) his request as politely as I can. He (12 not|show) any talent for business yet and until he (13 _____) I (14 not|lend) him a penny.

Marilyn (15 go) to the States on business in a few days. I am told that while she (16 be) away, Georgina's brother (17 keep) an eye on her firm for her. He (18 help) Marilyn with her business before, and she (19 trust) him implicitly. As long as she (20 not|be) away for too long, it should be a satisfactory arrangement.

Robert (21 go) around recently saying that he (22 think) people who (23 go) to university (24 have) a great advantage over those who (25 _____ not). (26 mean|this) that he (27 think) of going to university himself? If it (28 _____) and if he actually (29 succeed) in getting there, he (30 do) what his father always (31 want) him to do, partly because he never (32 have) the chance of doing it himself. But I (33 doubt) if Robert (34 get) a university place all that easily if he (35 not|improve) his academic qualifications. He (36 leave) school over a year ago with poor grades, and unless he now (37 go) to a college and (38 work) hard to get better ones, few universities (39 accept) him. The trouble is that Robert is not the sort of person who (40 find) it easy to start studying again.

Robert (41 prefer) sport to books, and since leaving school (42 continue) to play a lot of football. In fact the manager of the local team says he (43 consider) Robert for a place in it provided he (44 train) hard. And here (45 lie) another of Robert's problems: he is a sociable, easy-going sort of chap with a strong streak of laziness in his character, whether we (46 talk) of study or sport. Unless he (47 take) regular exercise – which he seldom (48 _____) – he (49 tend) to run to fat, even at his age. Until he (50 spend) less time eating and chatting idly with friends, he (51 not|become) the professional footballer he sometimes (52 dream) of being. Whichever he (53 choose), university or football, he (54 have) to discipline himself. However, a self-disciplined Robert is someone I (55 find) hard to imagine; I (56 feel) that even if it (57 cost) him a career he (58 go) on being the same Robert, which (59 mean) that by the time he (60 be) thirty he (61 be) really fat!

My son (62 study) medicine for six years and (63 take) his final examinations in two months' time. Provided he (64 pass) them, he (65 specialise) in psychiatry, which (66 take) another two years' study at least. So he (67 not|be) ready to practise full time until he (68 be) nearly thirty. By then he (69 study) for a total of eight or nine years and (70 earn) practically nothing. Until now his wife (71 work) and (72 support) him, but she (73 expect) a baby in four months and so she (74 give up) her job soon. What on earth they (75 live) on when she (76 stop) working I do not know. But they (77 not|worry) about it. My daughter-in-law says that they (78 manage) somehow, while my son says simply that he (79 qualify) as a psychiatrist however long it (80 take).

When people retire they quite rightly think that if they (81 work) hard for most of their lives they (82 earn) the right to a bit of comfort in their old age. Unfortunately, unless they (83 qualify) for pensions indexed to the cost of living, they will be among those who (84 suffer) most if there (85 be) bad inflation in the future.

'So long as political leaders (86 keep) their heads a third world war (87 not|be) inevitable.'
 'Whether they (88 keep) their heads or not, they (89 find) it almost impossible to prevent world war unless they (90 succeed) in abolishing the international arms trade.'
 'My prediction is that providing a nuclear holocaust (91 not|occur) by the end of the century, mankind (92 pass) the danger point.'
 'You're too complacent. Even if your prediction (93 prove) correct, there (94 always|be) a risk of man destroying himself.'
 'I (95 come) with you only if you (96 drive) more slowly than you usually (97 _____).'
 'I promise I (98 _____). Jump in! You can put the handbrake on immediately you (99 think) I (100 go) too fast.'

1D Tense use for non-fact: supposition

Introductory note: For supposition we use the same conditional links as in 1C and the sentences in which we use them are, like those in 1C, called conditional sentences. But tense use for supposition is different, as the following examples show:

She always *waited* for me if I *was* late. FACT: PAST TIME

I'm sure she *would* always *wait* for me if I *was* late.

SUPPOSITION: FUTURE REFERENCE

The obvious difference, then, between conditional sentences for fact and for supposition is the use in the latter of a **CONDITIONAL** tense. Conditional tenses are formed by the substitution of *would/should* for *will/shall* in the future tenses (1Bf, g, n, q), so that we get the following:

	CONDITIONAL	CONDITIONAL PERFECT
SIMPLE FORM	<i>would wait</i>	<i>would have waited</i>
PROGRESSIVE FORM	<i>would be waiting</i>	<i>would have been waiting</i>

In the rest of the sentence (that is to say, after a link such as *if*), we use one of the past tenses already dealt with in 1B, with the important difference that for supposition a past tense does **not** relate directly to time; as we see from the example above (*was*), it may have a future reference. Sometimes the subjunctive *were* is used instead of *was*; and *could* or *might* may be used instead of a conditional tense. Possible combinations of these tenses and verbs are given below.

Thus we see that conditional sentences consist of two parts. These are called CLAUSES. The one beginning with the link is the **CONDITIONAL CLAUSE** (since it expresses the condition), while the other is the **MAIN CLAUSE**.* As the Examples here and in 1C show, either clause may come first in a sentence, but under tense use (see below) the main-clause tense is listed first. For clarity, the tenses are set out in full, without colloquial contraction (*she'd be working* etc.).

To remind you of the conditional links mentioned in 1C, these are as follows:

if, providing, provided (that), as/so long as, unless, supposing, even if, whether ... or, however (late etc.), no matter how, whoever etc., no matter who etc., any ... (that)

Examples

	TIME REFERENCE	TENSE USE
1 <i>If Brenda <u>was/were</u> here she <u>would be working</u> in the office next door. a</i>	PRESENT } FUTURE }	CONDITIONAL + PAST OR SUBJUNCTIVE <i>were</i>
2 <i>If she <u>left</u> her job tomorrow she <u>would</u> get some pension. b</i>		
3 <i><u>However long</u> Brenda <u>had stayed</u> in her last job she <u>would not have got</u> a pension. c</i>	PAST	CONDITIONAL PERFECT + PAST PERFECT
4 <i>But she <u>would now be making</u> a lot of money <u>if she had not left</u>. d</i>	MIXED: PRESENT-PAST	CONDITIONAL + PAST PERFECT
5 <i>Brenda <u>would have told</u> me <u>if she did not like</u> her present job. d</i>	MIXED: PAST-PRESENT	CONDITIONAL PERFECT + PAST
6 <i>She <u>might now be</u> a</i>	MIXED:	<i>might</i> WITH INFINITIVE

* In some grammar books, what is called a dependent or subordinate clause (for example, a conditional clause) is defined as part of a main clause. In this book main and dependent clauses are separate parts of a sentence.

director <i>if she <u>had stayed</u> in her last job. e</i>	PRESENT-PAST	+ PAST PERFECT
7 Brenda <u>could have made</u> a success of <i>any</i> career (<i>that</i>) she <u>had chosen</u> . f,g	PAST	<i>could</i> WITH PERFECT INFINITIVE + PAST PERFECT

Explanation

a Reference (1) is to a supposed or hypothetical present, that is to say, to one which does not exist. Note the tense use:

Main clause: CONDITIONAL (*would be working*)
Conditional clause: PAST (*was*)

The use of the progressive form (*would be working*) corresponds to its use for FACT:

Brenda is here; she is working in the office next door.

After *if, even if* or *unless* the subjunctive *were* is a common alternative to *was*, and in the expression

If I *was/were* you I *would/should* ...

it is probably the more common of the two. However, *were* is seldom used after the other conditional links.

b Reference (2) is to a future that is supposed or hypothetical for one of several reasons:

i We do not think it probable or do not consider it seriously (Example 2). Compare the following, where the tense use (see 1C) shows that the same future possibility is either considered probable or, if improbable, is taken seriously as something that **may** happen:

If she leaves her job tomorrow she will get some pension.

ii We consider future possibilities seriously, but have not yet made up our minds what to do:

Why not ask her now? She would still be at home if we phoned straight away.

iii We want to be polite, and therefore approach the future cautiously, as supposition rather than possible fact:

Would it be all right if I used your phone?*

This is more polite than 'Will it be all right if I use your phone?'

Tense use for the supposed future is the same as for the supposed present, except that as alternatives we can use *was to/were to* or *should* in the conditional clause after *if, even if* or *unless*. These alternative uses are generally more formal in style than the standard use:

If she *was to/were to* leave her job tomorrow she would ...

If she *should* leave her job tomorrow she would ...

Should can also be used in a conditional sentence like that in i above:

If she *should* leave her job tomorrow she *will* ...

* Note a variation using the infinitive instead of a clause: 'Would it be possible (for me etc.) to use your phone?' (See 1Fd.)

The probable effect of *should* here is to make the sentence less 'factual' and more 'suppositional' like Example 2. But whether it is used with *will* or *would* in the main clause, *should* after *if* has nothing to do with *ought* or the conditional tense; it can **not** be replaced by *would* (**not** 'If she would leave her job tomorrow she will/would . . .') and it can **not** be contracted to 'd (see 11Fe).

- c Reference (3) is to a supposed or hypothetical past which never existed. Note the tense use:

Main clause: CONDITIONAL PERFECT (*would have got*)

Conditional clause: PAST PERFECT (*had stayed*)

For the conditional link *however long*, see 1Ce.

- d Mixed reference (4,5) occurs in many conditional sentences. The main clause may have one reference, for example to the supposed present, and the conditional clause another reference, perhaps to the supposed past (4); or the references may be reversed (5). Tenses are used accordingly. Here are mixed future–past references:

I would come with you tomorrow if I hadn't already promised to go out with Denis.

I would have accepted your invitation if I wasn't going out with Denis tomorrow.

Sometimes the conditional or past tense is 'shifted back' to the conditional perfect or past perfect to give a sentence with uniform tense use:

I would have come with you tomorrow if I hadn't already promised . . .

I would have accepted your invitation if I hadn't been going out . . . tomorrow.

- e *Might* (6) is often used instead of *would perhaps* to express possibility (= She would perhaps now be a director if . . .). *Might* with a perfect infinitive (*have been*) is used instead of the conditional perfect tense: She might have been (= would perhaps have been) a director by now if . . .

- f *Could* normally replaces *would be able to*, expressing ability: *could make* = *would be able to make*. With the perfect infinitive (7) it replaces the conditional perfect tense (*would have been able to make*).

- g We have already seen (1Cf) that links like *any time (that)* can be the equivalent of conditional links like *whenever*. Similarly, *any career (that)* (7) can be the equivalent of *whatever career* and act as a conditional link in a supposition (= If she had chosen any career at all she could have made a success of it). Here are some more examples:

I'd give a reward to anyone who (= to whoever) found my necklace.

They'd have done anything (= whatever) she'd asked.

These links are DEFINING RELATIVES (see 8Ab). Sometimes they are more precise in meaning than *-ever* forms:

I'd punish any child of mine who (**not** whoever) did a thing like that.

For my holiday I'd choose a nice seaside resort that (**not** wherever) promised some sun.

NON-DEFINING RELATIVES (8Aa) cannot act as conditional links.

- h *Would* against *should*. Like *shall* (1Br), conditional *should* may be used with the first persons (*I, we*), but as it can be confused with *should* in its other uses (11C,E,F) it is generally better to use *would* for the conditional tense. In either case the distinction between conditional *would* and *should* often disappears, since contraction to 'd is normal in informal English (see 1F, Examples).

Exercise

Use correct tenses for the verbs in brackets. These include tenses for fact (1B,C) as well as for supposition. Where there is no verb (____), give the correct auxiliary like *could* or *did*.

'As long as you (1 be) sure it (2 be) perfectly convenient, I (3 call) round tomorrow to see Miss Pearl as you (4 just|suggest).'

'I (5 not|suggest) it unless it (6 be) convenient. If you (7 want) to come on Friday it (8 be) a different matter; Brenda (9 be) too busy to see you.'

Sheila teaches only the younger children at her school, but I think she (10 be) equally successful no matter who she (11 teach). I hear that however ill-behaved and uncooperative her classes (12 be) in the beginning, she always (13 win) them round in the end.

'If I (14 be) a successful doctor like you I (15 not|do) what you've done: I (16 not|go) and live in a town I (17 not|like), however much the people (18 need) me.'

'If I (19 not|be) a doctor I (20 agree) with you. I (21 live) near my family and friends, not where my fellow citizens (22 need) me most. But I *am* a doctor, and if I (23 do) that my skills would be wasted. And if I felt that was happening, how (24 justify|I) my choice of career?'

I don't keep a dog or a cat because if I (25 ____) I (26 have to) find someone to look after it whenever I (27 go) away, and as I travel a lot on business that (28 be) a nuisance. However, when I (29 get) married, which I (30 expect) to do quite soon, I (31 keep) one.

Even if I (32 have) all the money in the world I (33 not|be) happier than I am now. Providing one (34 have) reasonably good health, it (35 be) possible to be happy with very few material possessions. I hope I (36 continue) to think as I do however rich I (37 get).

'Do you think pigs (38 fly) if they (39 have) wings?'
 'I don't think they (40 _____); their weight (41 be) all in the wrong place.*
 But what a silly question! If pigs (42 have) wings they (43 not|be) pigs!'

If we (44 live) on grass we (45 need) a special stomach like a cow's and teeth that (46 chew) vegetable matter more efficiently than ours. In addition we (47 need) to spend a great deal more time eating than we (48 _____) now.

'If we (49 fit) ourselves with an extra heart, (50 not|do|we) a lot more work?'
 'I don't know. We (51 be|able) to do more physical work. But whether we (52 have) an extra heart or not, we (53 not|do) more mental work without an extra brain. The trouble is that some people (54 use) an extra brain to avoid doing extra work.'

If it (55 not|be) for Napoleon Bonaparte, who (56 make) his cavalry ride on the right side of the road, the whole world (57 now|drive) on the left, as they (58 _____) in Japan, India, Australia and Britain. The left, after all, (59 be) the right side to drive for right-handed people.

The entire history of the world, says French writer Pascal, (60 be) different if Queen Cleopatra of Egypt (61 have) a shorter nose. Presumably he means that Julius Caesar and Mark Antony (62 not|fall) in love with her, and so (63 spend) their energies on different conquests.

'Unless you (64 leave) by the time I (65 count) ten,' he shouted, 'I (66 call) the police!'

'I (67 have) no intention of leaving, whatever you (68 count) and whoever you (69 call),' I replied. 'If you (70 know) anything about the law, which you clearly don't, you (71 realise) I have as much right here as you have. Why (72 not|mind|you) your own business? If you (73 _____), the world (74 be) a better place.'

'I (75 take) some of my pupils to Oxford tomorrow on a sightseeing tour.'
 'Really? (76 be|it) possible for my daughter to join the party? You (77 show) her so much more than if she (78 go) with us, as we (79 not|know) Oxford very well.'

'Certainly. The coach (80 leave) at eight-thirty from outside the school. So if she (81 be) there in good time it (82 be) a pleasure to have her with us. There (83 be) several spare seats.'

'In that case, (84 mind|you) if we (85 come) too?'

'I'm very sorry, but this is strictly an outing for the children. If I (86 allow) you to come I (87 have to) allow the other parents to come as well.'

'My colleague Brenda Pearl nearly (88 get) married a few years ago. I doubt whether she (89 now|work) with me if she (90 _____). I certainly (91 almost lose) a wonderful assistant.'

* Note that a conditional sentence may consist only of one or more main clauses when the conditional clause is understood from the context, and is therefore not stated. Such sentences occur here and later in the Exercise.

'You (92 _____), but on the other hand you (93 _____|not). Even if she (94 get) married, I am sure she (95 now|work) somewhere.'

'Someone (96 damage) the photocopier.'

'I (97 not|be) a bit surprised if it (98 be) Denis. It (99 not|be) the first time he (100 do) it.'

1E Tense use for non-fact: wish

Introductory note: There are four different phrases* that may be used to introduce a fanciful or unfulfilled wish:

If only Brenda was/were here!

I wish (that) she was/were here.

It is time she was here.

I would rather she was/were here (than in London).

The first three are in descending order of strength of feeling; *if only*, the strongest, is often used with an exclamation mark. *Would rather* expresses a wish in the form of a comparison or preference, although the phrase introduced by *than* may be left out if the comparison is understood from the context.

You will see that they are used with a past tense (*was*) or (with the exception of *it is time*) the subjunctive *were* to express a wish that is unfulfilled in the present. They may also be used to express wishes for the future that may or may not be fulfilled:

If only Brenda would come back!

I wish (that) she would come back.

It is time she came back.

I would rather she came back (than stayed in London).

Here the tense used with the first two and the last two phrases is different. The first two phrases, *if only* and *wish*, but not the last two (*it is time* and *would rather*), often introduce wishes unfulfilled in the past:

If only Brenda hadn't gone to London!

I wish (that) she hadn't gone to London.

These various tense uses are fully set out and explained below.

Examples

	TIME REFERENCE	TENSE USE
1 I wish Brenda was/were here. <i>If only</i> she was/were	PRESENT	PAST or SUBJUNCTIVE <i>were</i>

* In this book the word PHRASE is used loosely to mean a group of related words.

- working in the office
next door! a
- 2 *If only* I could (= was/were able to) telephone her! b
- 3 I *wish* Brenda would get in touch! *If only* she would phone me! c
- 4 I *wish* Brenda hadn't gone to London. *If only* she had stayed here! d
- 5 I *wish* we could have postponed (= had been able to postpone) her trip to London e
- 6 (On phone): Brenda, *it is time* you were back. I *would rather* you were helping me here than working in London. f, g
- 7 Yes, *it is high time* you came back. There is an important matter I *would* much *rather* you dealt with than anyone else. f, g

Explanation

- a Where we would use a present tense for fact ('Brenda is here; she is working in the office next door'), we use (1) *wish* or *if only* with the PAST tense or subjunctive *were* for an unfulfilled wish.
- b *Could* (2) usually replaces *was/were able to* (see e below).
- c Where we might use the future tense for possible fact ('I expect Brenda will get in touch; she'll probably phone me'), we use (3) *wish* or *if only* with the CONDITIONAL tense for a wish that we **hope** will be fulfilled. Compare the use of *wish* or *want* with the infinitive (*wish* being the more formal and the less common of the two):
I want/wish Brenda to phone me.
Here we have what is almost a command, which we **expect** to be fulfilled.
- d Where we would use the present perfect or past tense for fact ('Brenda hasn't gone to London; she stayed here'), we use (4) *wish* or *if only* with the PAST PERFECT tense.
- e After *wish* or *if only*, *could have* (5) usually replaces *had been able to*.

Compare 1Df, where we have seen that *could* and *could have* replace *would be able to* and *would have been able to* respectively.

- f *It is time* is followed only by the PAST tense to express a wish. This may be a wish unfulfilled in the present (6) or that may or may not be fulfilled in the future (7). Compare the use of *it is time* with the infinitive to express a fact that is in the nature of a command:
It is time (for you) to come back.
- g *Would rather* (6,7) is essentially similar regarding tense use to *it is time*. However, although uncommon, its use with the past perfect tense to express a wish unfulfilled in the past can occur:
I would rather Brenda had gone to London last week (than this week).
For the use of *would rather* with the plain infinitive, see 9g.

Exercise

Choose a correct tense for the verbs in brackets. As well as tenses used to express wish, some of the tenses required are those used for fact (1B,C) or for supposition (1D). Where there is no verb (____), give the correct auxiliary, such as *can* or *would*.

Sheila, whose mother is ill, wishes she (1 get) better so that they could go on holiday together next month. She says she (2 _____) rather go with her than with anyone else.

'If only,' some people say, 'the world (3 be) a kinder place than it is!' It's time such people (4 realise) that charity begins at home and (5 act) accordingly.

'If only,' thinks Georgina's husband, 'I (6 get) Georgina to sew or read a book! I wish she (7 learn) to enjoy domestic life a bit more and (8 not|want) to go out every evening.'

I would always rather people (9 think) me a rogue than a fool. Rogues are quite popular at parties and other social gatherings, whereas if people (10 think) you are stupid they never (11 ask) you anywhere.

I wish I (12 call) round to see you tomorrow, but I don't think I (13 _____). I (14 let) you know, though, if there is any change of plan.

'Don't you wish your late aunt (15 leave) you some money when she died?'
'Not really. If she (16 _____) I expect I (17 give) it away. I (18 _____) rather any money of mine (19 be) earned than inherited.'

'I wish I (20 be) as artistic as you. Then* I (21 spend) all my time painting beautiful scenery.'

'If you think art is just painting beautiful scenery, it's time you (22 learn) something about it!'

*See footnote on p. 34.

'It's high time someone (23 tell) Denis how objectionable he is.'
 'I wish you (24 not|criticise) Denis behind his back all the time.
 He's not so bad. I'd rather he (25 become) my son-in-law than Ken, for
 example.'

'What's wrong with Ken? If you (26 know) him as well as I do, you
 (27 realise) he's worth ten Denises.'
 'Oh, I wish you (28 stop) weighing people up like lumps of meat!'

Sir James thinks it's time his son Toby (29 get) a proper job and (30 begin) to
 think seriously about a career. Of course Sir James would rather Toby
 (31 work) in his own firm than anywhere else, but in any case he wishes he
 (32 adopt) a more positive attitude towards life.

People often wish they (33 choose) a different career when they were young.
 'If only,' they say, 'I (34 do) what I really wanted to do!' Or: 'I wish I
 (35 listen) to so-and-so's advice.' Well, the truth of the matter often is that if
 they (36 have) their lives over again they (37 choose) the same.

'I must say I wish I (38 be) born a bird and not a human. Then* I (39 not|have
 to) come in to work this morning. And I (40 have) more freedom to go where I
 pleased when I pleased. I (41 migrate) last autumn if I (42 want) to!'
 'You do talk a lot of nonsense. It's time you (43 come) to terms with life as it
 is. If you (44 be) born a bird, you (45 be) dead at your age.'

1F Fact and non-fact: summary of tense use

Introductory note: The following Examples summarise in dialogue form
 tense use for supposition (1D) and wish (1E) as non-fact and compare it with
 tense use for fact (1B,C). The Examples show how use can vary between non-
 fact and fact, even within the same sentence (B3, A5, B5, A6). As this is a
 dialogue, colloquial abbreviations are used, *had* being distinguished as '(ha)d
 from *would/should* (= 'd). The small letters (a, b etc.) refer to the Explanation
 below.

Examples

- | | | | |
|---|---|----------|------|
| A1 I'd like to learn to play the piano. I wish
I knew a good teacher who lived near
here and who'd give/could give
me lessons. | } | NON-FACT | a, d |
| B1 Suppose I gave you lessons. What would
you say? | } | NON-FACT | a, d |
| A2 Oh, if only you would/could! I'd rather
you taught me than any other teacher. | } | | |
| B2 I'd teach you only if you practised. | } | | |

*The adverb *then* here replaces a missing conditional clause *If...* (see footnote on p. 30).

- | | | | |
|--|---|----------|------|
| I'll never teach anyone who is not
prepared to practise, no matter who
she is. | } | FACT | b |
| A3 I'd have asked you before if I'(ha)d
thought you'd have the time. | } | NON-FACT | a |
| B3 It sounds as if you're keen and as if
you'd practise. | } | FACT | b, c |
| A4 I'd practise as if it was/were a matter of
life and death. | } | NON-FACT | a, c |
| B4 Good. What would you pay me? | } | | |
| A5 I'd pay you what you wanted, even if
it was/were more than
you are getting at the music
school, however much that is. | } | FACT | b |
| B5 It's time we started the first lesson,
then. I'd be grateful if you'd put
what you've just said in writing! | } | NON-FACT | a, f |
| A6 I'd have liked to start/to have started
today, but I can't. Also we'(ha)d better
settle the price before we start, hadn't
we? If I started before we settled it, it
wouldn't be businesslike. | } | FACT | b, e |
| | } | NON-FACT | a |

Explanation

- a The dialogue consists largely of wishes and suppositions (NON-FACT), since
 the speakers are feeling their way towards an agreement. Therefore most
 verbs are in conditional and past tenses or the subjunctive (*were*).
- b Sometimes, however, the speakers deal in FACT, and then tenses relate to
 time except:
- i after conditional links like *anyone who, no matter who* in B2 or time links
 like *before* in A6 (see 1C);
 - ii in the case of the idiom *had better* in A6 (see e below).
- c Note in particular how the tense varies in B3 and A4 after *as if*, which is not
 a true conditional link (it may be followed by a future tense), but a link for
 condition (*if*) + similarity (*as*):
- | | |
|--|----------|
| It sounds as if you're keen (= I believe you are). | FACT |
| It sounds as if you'd practise (if I taught you, but I may
not). | NON-FACT |
| I'd practise as if it was/were a matter of life and death (but
it wouldn't actually be as serious as all that). | NON-FACT |
- Compare:
- | | |
|--|----------|
| It sounds as if you were keen (but I doubt if you are). | NON-FACT |
| It sounds as if you'll practise (when I teach you, which
I've decided to do). | FACT |

The past perfect tense may also be used after *as if*:

The town looks as if it *had been struck* by a tornado (but I know it hasn't/wasn't).

NON-FACT

Compare:

The town looks as if it *has been/was struck* by a tornado (= I believe it has/was).

As though is an alternative to *as if*.

- d *Would/should like* + infinitive may express a wish that is entirely fanciful (see 1E):

I should like to be the most beautiful woman in the world (= I wish I were ...)!

Usually, however, it expresses a reasonable wish that we hope to realise (A1). If we decide we cannot or may not realise it (A6), we can use either *would/should like* + perfect infinitive (*to have started*) or *would/should have liked* + infinitive/perfect infinitive (the choice of infinitive is in this case not important). We then have what is in effect a conditional sentence with past reference (1Dc):

I should have liked (it if we had been able) to start today.

This use of a conditional tense + infinitive as a replacement for a full conditional sentence is common with adjectives (*nice, better*):

It would have been nice to start/to have started today (= if we had started today).

It would be better to settle the price before we start (= if we settled the price before we start).

- e The idiom *had better* (A6) + plain infinitive (*settle*) expresses fact rather than non-fact, although the past tense is used with a future reference. In strength and meaning it comes between *would be better to* (see d above) and *should/ought to* (11C, E).
- f Just as *will* is not normally used after conditional or time links (1C), so *would* is not generally used after *if* etc. An important exception is the common formula (B5) for polite requests:
I (etc.) would/should be grateful if you (etc.) would/could ...
Compare the use of *will* in 1Cn(i).

Exercise

Put the verbs in brackets into a correct tense and fill any blanks (——) with a suitable auxiliary verb like *would/could* in Example A2.

'If only we (1 have) a car! Life (2 be) much more pleasant. Today, for instance, I (3 like) to have driven into the country to see and hear the spring. Don't you think it's time you (4 buy) a car and I (5 learn) to drive it?'
'It (6 be) nice to have a car if it (7 not|be) so expensive. The trouble is that I (8 have to) give up a lot of things I now (9 enjoy).'

Denis is only a junior employee in this firm, but he behaves as if he (10 run) it. It's time someone (11 put) him in his proper place. I (12 do) it myself, but the trouble is that he (13 not|pay) any attention to what I (14 say).

If we stayed here until we (15 finish) all this work, we (16 be) here until midnight. Suppose we then (17 discover) that we (18 be) all alone in this huge building. (19 —— n't) you be frightened? I (20 leave) before it (21 get) dark.

If only you (22 stop) worrying about what is going to happen! It's almost as if you (23 think) you (24 can) change things by worrying. But you (25 not|can). Suppose I (26 worry) like that when my husband (27 be) so ill last year. It (28 not|do) any good, (29 ——) it?

Would you please pay a little more attention when I (30 speak)? You behave as if everything I say (31 be) rubbish, which I can assure you it (32 not|be). I would rather you (33 leave) the lecture room altogether than (34 have) you sitting there yawning your head off.

It's about time Denis (35 learn) some table manners. I would never get up from the table before others (36 finish), would you? And would you stick your finger in the soup to see if it (37 be) warm enough? And supposing we all (38 help) ourselves to everything we (39 want) without offering it to others first. What (40 happen)? The table (41 become) a feeding trough.

It looks as if we (42 have) a long, difficult committee meeting tomorrow. I am sorry your boss (43 come). It (44 be) easier if he (45 —— n't). Then we (46 finish) by six o'clock, but as it is we (47 be) there until nine. I (48 give) a prize to anyone who managed to stop your boss talking so much!

I wish you (49 not|laugh) about the accident. Suppose you (50 hit) the other car. You (51 not|sit) here now. Even if you (52 not|be) killed, you (53 be) badly injured.

'(54 ——) you rather I (55 take) my holiday in June next year instead of later? If I (56 ——) you (57 can) have your holiday in July or August, when your children (58 have) their school holidays.'

'I (59 be) most grateful if you (60 ——). It (61 be) very nice if the whole family (62 can) spend its holidays together for once. It (63 be) a long time since we (64 ——) so.'

Listen, children! I (65 punish) whoever (66 be) late for class tomorrow, whatever excuse they (67 have). It's not as if I (68 not|warn) you many times before about unpunctuality, and so if anyone (69 be) late again they (70 know) what to expect.

'Good heavens! Is anything wrong? You look as though you (71 see) a ghost!'

'If I (72 ——) to tell you that I have, (73 believe|you) me?'

'No, I (74 —— n't). I (75 not|believe) in ghosts. If anyone told me he

(76 see) a ghost, I (77 tell) him he only (78 think) he (79 see) one and that he (80 _____) better pull himself together.'

'I wish you (81 warn) me about Helen before I (82 meet) her.'
'Even if I (83 _____), I doubt whether you (84 take) any notice of what I (85 say). She always looks as if butter (86 not|melt) in her mouth.'
'Exactly! If only she (87 not|look) so innocent!'

My friend Zena is a very hard-working model, but to hear her talk one (88 think) she (89 do) nothing but enjoy herself. I often think she (90 do) better to give herself a less pleasure-loving image.

2 Adverbials

2A Adverbs against adjectives

Examples

- | NOUN WITH ADJECTIVE | VERB WITH ADJECTIVE |
|--|--|
| 1 That cheese has a <i>terrible smell</i> . | → That cheese <i>smells terrible</i> . |
| | VERB WITH ADVERB |
| 2 Take a <i>cautious smell</i> at it and see if you agree. | → <i>Smell</i> it <i>cautiously</i> and see if you agree. |
| 3 Those men are pretty <i>hard workers</i> on the whole. | → Those men <i>work</i> pretty <i>hard</i> on the whole. |
| | VERB WITH ADVERB PHRASE |
| 4 One of them gave us a <i>friendly wave</i> . | → One of them <i>waved</i> at us <i>in a friendly way/manner</i> . |

Explanation

- a **General rule:** An ADJECTIVE is used with a VERB to describe the STATE (nature, condition, appearance etc.) of someone or something (1).
* Otherwise verbs are used with ADVERBS (2). Words that are difficult to deal with under this general rule are reserved for the explanations preceding Exercise 2 on p.41-42 (f-h).
- b Adjectives normally form their corresponding adverbs by the addition of *-ly* (2). † Exceptions are:
- good* → *well*
 - adjectives ending in *-ic*, which add *-ally*: *basic* → *basically*
 - adjectives ending in *-able/-ible*, in which final *-e* becomes *-y*: *comfortable* → *comfortably*; *possible* → *possibly*
 - adjectives with adverbs of the same form: *fast* → *fast*; *hard* → *hard* (3).
- c Adjectives that themselves end in *-ly* do not form adverbs by the addition of a further *-ly*. Some of them, such as *early*, *monthly*, have adverbs of the

* Activity is sometimes needed to maintain a state; or a state may be in the process of change. Therefore adjectives sometimes occur with verbs that themselves refer to activity in progress (1Bs): 'The children are being naughty/The sky is getting lighter.'

† Adjectives ending in *-y* [i] have *-i-* in the adverb: *clumsy* → *clumsily*.