

Conditionals

Twelve of these conditional sentences contain a mistake, or may be considered incorrect by most English speakers. Tick (✓) the correct sentences, then find and correct the mistakes. (Be careful! Incorrect punctuation counts as a mistake.)

Example
I would have called you if I ~~know~~ you were at home.

had known

- 1 It may be possible, if both parties desire it, to reduce the time scale.
- 2 If the bill is passed by both parliamentary houses then it becomes law.
- 3 Shall we start the decorating at the weekend if we had no other plans?
- 4 If you spill even something as innocuous as water on this fabric, it stains.
- 5 When you press the 'record' button, the green light comes on.
- 6 If the museum will charge for entry, a lot of people won't be able to use it.
- 7 Are you unhappy with any of our operatives, we will replace them immediately.
- 8 If you're taking some flowers to Julie, I'll take some fruit.
- 9 If the form has been correctly completed, the transfer will take only two days.
- 10 The organisers would respond positively to proposals if they are submitted by 10th June.
- 11 If you were to listen more carefully, you might understand a little more.
- 12 If I was you, I should try to see a consultant as soon as possible.
- 13 If he would have waited a bit longer, we would have given him the result.
- 14 The King of Belgium didn't attend the royal wedding. If he hadn't been there, he would have witnessed a marvellous spectacle.
- 15 If the company didn't want to continue sponsoring us in the future, they wouldn't renew our contract last week, would they?
- 16 If the authority had built new homes as planned, we would have fewer homeless people on our streets today.
- 17 Shh! I'd be grateful unless you made comments during the concert.
- 18 Always take a basic medicine kit on holiday in case you fall ill.
- 19 Even they go down with flu after they've had the vaccination, it's likely to be less serious.
- 20 Those concerned by the long-term effects of global warming believe that the damage has been done, whether we take remedial steps now.

KEY:

- 1 ✓ ▶ 10.1A
- 2 If the bill is passed by both parliamentary houses, then it becomes law. (*insert comma*) ▶ 10.1A
- 3 ~~had~~ → have ▶ 10.1B, 10.3, 10.4
- 4 ✓ ▶ 10.2A
- 5 ✓ ▶ 10.2B
- 6 ~~will charge~~ → charges ▶ 10.3A
- 7 ~~Are you unhappy~~ → If you are unhappy/Should you be unhappy ▶ 10.3C, 10.4C
- 8 ✓ ▶ 10.3A
- 9 ✓ ▶ 10.3A (or: the transfer takes ▶ 10.2A)
- 10 ~~are~~ → were ▶ 10.4A (or: would → will ▶ 10.3A, B)
- 11 ✓ ▶ 10.4A, C
- 12 ~~was~~ (*often considered incorrect*) → were ▶ 10.4A
- 13 ~~would have waited~~ → had waited ▶ 10.5A, B (*but ✓ in US English*)
- 14 ~~hadn't been~~ → had been ▶ 10.5B
- 15 ~~wouldn't renew~~ → wouldn't have renewed ▶ 10.6A
- 16 ✓ ▶ 10.6B
- 17 ~~unless you made~~ → If you didn't make ▶ 10.7A
- 18 ✓ ▶ 10.7C
- 19 ~~Even they~~ → Even if they ▶ 10.7D

- 20 ~~whether we take remedial steps now~~ → whether or not we take remedial steps now/whether we take remedial steps now or not. ▶ 10.7E