



Conditional Comparison: Second, Third & Mixed Conditional Comparison: Present, Past or Cross-Time?

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- If I had known about the meeting, I ____ there.
a) would be
b) would have been
c) will be
d) was
- If she spoke better English, she ____ that job last year.
a) would get
b) will get
c) would have got
d) gets
- If I ____ more money, I would buy a new laptop.
a) had
b) have
c) had had
d) would have
- If they had left earlier, they ____ stuck in traffic now.
a) won't be
b) wouldn't have been
c) aren't
d) wouldn't be
- If we had booked the tickets, we ____ at the concert right now.
a) would be
b) would have been
c) will be
d) are
- If I ____ the lottery last week, I would be a millionaire now.
a) won
b) had won
c) would win
d) win
- If she hadn't eaten so much, she ____ sick yesterday.
a) wouldn't feel
b) won't feel
c) wouldn't have felt
d) didn't feel
- If I ____ the president, I would change the law.
a) had been
b) will be
c) am
d) were
- If he had studied harder, he ____ the exam.
a) would have passed
b) would pass
c) will pass
d) passed
- If I ____ you, I wouldn't have said that.
a) had been
b) were
c) am
d) will be

11. If they had taken a taxi, they ____ arrived on time.
 a) will have
 b) would
 c) would have
 d) had
12. If she weren't so shy, she ____ to the party last night.
 a) would go
 b) will go
 c) had gone
 d) would have gone
13. If we ____ closer to the beach, we could go swimming every day.
 a) had lived
 b) live
 c) lived
 d) will live
14. If he ____ afraid of flying, he would have travelled to Australia last summer.
 a) hadn't been
 b) weren't
 c) isn't
 d) won't be
15. If I had accepted that job offer, I ____ in New York today.
 a) would be living
 b) would have lived
 c) will live
 d) lived
16. If she ____ closer to her office, she wouldn't spend so much time commuting.
 a) will live
 b) has lived
 c) lives
 d) lived
17. If he ____ better at maths, he would have chosen engineering at university.
 a) had been
 b) were
 c) is
 d) will be
18. If she had gone to university, she ____ a better job now.
 a) would have
 b) will have
 c) had
 d) has
19. If they ____ a map, they wouldn't have got lost.
 a) would bring
 b) brought
 c) had brought
 d) bring
20. If I didn't have to work tomorrow, I ____ out tonight.
 a) go
 b) will go
 c) went
 d) would go



Answers

1. b) would have been
2. c) would have got
3. a) had
4. d) wouldn't be
5. a) would be
6. b) had won
7. c) wouldn't have felt
8. d) were
9. a) would have passed
10. b) were
11. c) would have
12. d) would have gone
13. c) lived
14. b) weren't
15. a) would be living
16. d) lived
17. b) were
18. a) would have
19. c) had brought
20. d) would go



Explanations

1. “would have been” (b)

This is a third conditional — both the condition and the result are about the past. You didn't know about the meeting (past), so you weren't there (past). Third conditional result: 'would have + past participle'. 'Would be' would mean a present result (mixed conditional), but without a time marker like 'now', the natural reading is past.

2. “would have got” (c)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 2→3). The if-clause 'spoke' (past simple) describes a permanent present state — her English level now. The result 'last year' is about the past. So: present state → past consequence = 'would have got'. 'Would get' would be a present/future result (pure second conditional), but 'last year' makes it past.

3. “had” (a)

This is a second conditional — an imaginary present situation. The speaker doesn't have enough money right now. 'Had' (past simple) is the second conditional form for the if-clause. 'Had had' (past perfect) would make it third conditional, but the result 'would buy' (not 'would have bought') confirms this is about the present.

4. “wouldn't be” (d)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 3→2). The if-clause 'had left' (past perfect) describes an unreal past action. The result 'now' is about the present. Past cause → present result = 'wouldn't be'. 'Wouldn't have been' would describe a past result (pure third conditional), but 'now' tells us the result is in the present.

5. “would be” (a)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 3→2). 'Had booked' (past perfect) is the unreal past action, and 'right now' signals a present result. Past cause → present result = 'would be'. 'Would have been' would describe a past result (third conditional), but 'right now' clearly points to the present.

6. “had won” (b)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 3→2). 'Last week' tells us the if-clause is about the past, and 'now' tells us the result is about the present. The if-clause needs past perfect: 'had won'. 'Won' (past simple) would be second conditional, but 'last week' makes it a specific past event requiring past perfect.

7. “wouldn't have felt” (c)

This is a third conditional — both clauses are about the past. She ate too much (past) and felt sick (past). Third conditional result: 'wouldn't have felt'. 'Wouldn't feel' would mean she feels sick now (mixed conditional), but 'yesterday' confirms the result is also in the past.

8. “were” (d)

This is a second conditional — an imaginary present situation. The speaker is NOT the president and imagines what they would do. 'Were' (subjunctive) is the second conditional form. 'Had been' (past perfect) would make it third conditional, but the result 'would change' (not 'would have changed') confirms this is about the present.

9. “would have passed” (a)

This is a third conditional — both clauses are about the past. He didn't study hard enough (past) and he didn't pass (past). Third conditional result: 'would have + past participle'. 'Would pass' would describe a present/future result (mixed conditional), but the natural reading is that the exam is already over.

10. “were” (b)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 2→3). 'If I were you' uses second conditional (permanent/hypothetical state — being someone else), while 'wouldn't have said' uses third conditional (past action). 'If I were you' is the standard English idiom for giving advice, even about past actions. 'Had been' is not the natural form with 'you' in this idiomatic expression.

11. “would have” (c)

This is a third conditional. They didn't take a taxi (past) and they didn't arrive on time (past). The result needs 'would have + past participle': 'would have arrived'. 'Would' alone is incomplete — third conditional requires 'would have' before the past participle.

12. “would have gone” (d)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 2→3). 'Weren't so shy' (past simple/subjunctive) describes a permanent present trait — she IS shy. 'Last night' tells us the result is about the past. Present state → past consequence = 'would have gone'. 'Would go' would describe a present/future result (pure second conditional).

13. “lived” (c)

This is a second conditional — an imaginary present situation. We DON'T live close to the beach. 'Lived' (past simple) is the second conditional form, and 'could go' (could = past of can) is the second conditional result showing a hypothetical present possibility. 'Had lived' (past perfect) would make it third conditional, but the situation is about where we live now, not in the past.

14. “weren't” (b)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 2→3). 'Weren't afraid of flying' describes a permanent present state — he IS afraid of flying (it's an ongoing condition). 'Last summer' tells us the result is about the past. Present trait → past consequence = 'weren't... would have travelled'. 'Hadn't been' would suggest his fear was temporary or only in the past, but fear of flying is typically a permanent condition.

15. “would be living” (a)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 3→2). 'Had accepted' (past perfect) describes an unreal past action, and 'today' signals a present result. Past action → present situation = 'would be living'. 'Would have lived' would mean the living happened and finished in the past (third conditional), but 'today' makes it present.

16. “lived” (d)

This is a second conditional — an imaginary present situation. She doesn't live close to her office. 'Lived' (past simple) is the second conditional form, and 'wouldn't spend' (would + base verb) is the present hypothetical result. Both clauses are about the present/ongoing situation.

17. “were” (b)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 2→3). 'Were better at maths' describes a permanent present ability — he IS NOT good at maths (and presumably still isn't). 'Would have chosen' is the past result — he didn't choose engineering. Present trait → past consequence. 'Had been' would suggest his maths ability was different in the past, but the implication is it's a lasting characteristic.

18. “would have” (a)

This is a mixed conditional (Type 3→2). 'Had gone' (past perfect) describes an unreal past action, and 'now' signals a present result. Past action → present situation. 'Would have' here means 'would possess' — she would have (own/possess) a better job at this moment. The full form is 'would have a better job now'.

19. “had brought” (c)

This is a third conditional — both clauses are about the past. They didn't bring a map (past) and they got lost (past). Third conditional: 'If + past perfect (had brought), would have + past participle'. 'Brought' (past simple) would make it second conditional, but 'wouldn't have got' (third conditional result) confirms past perfect is needed.

20. “would go” (d)

This is a second conditional — an imaginary situation about the present/near future. The speaker DOES have to work tomorrow, so going out is hypothetical. 'Would go' is the second conditional result. 'Will go' (first conditional) would suggest not working tomorrow is a real possibility.