



## First Conditional: Modal Variations: May, Might, Can, Could & Imperatives

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- If it rains this afternoon, we \_\_\_\_ have to cancel the match. It depends on how heavy the rain is.  
a) will definitely  
b) might  
c) had to  
d) would
- If you finish early, you \_\_\_\_ leave the class.  
a) can  
b) will  
c) must  
d) would
- If you see a fire, \_\_\_\_ 999 immediately.  
a) calling  
b) call  
c) you call  
d) called
- If the price drops, I \_\_\_\_ going to buy that jacket.  
a) will  
b) was  
c) am  
d) would be
- If you don't feel well, you \_\_\_\_ see a doctor.  
a) should  
b) would  
c) must have  
d) could have
- If we get lost, we \_\_\_\_ always ask someone for directions.  
a) would  
b) must  
c) shall  
d) can
- If the hotel is full, we \_\_\_\_ have to find somewhere else to stay.  
a) may  
b) would  
c) should have  
d) must have
- If you hear any strange noises at night, \_\_\_\_ go outside alone.  
a) not  
b) doesn't  
c) don't  
d) won't
- If you press this button, the door \_\_\_\_ open automatically.  
a) might  
b) will  
c) may  
d) could
- If the traffic is bad, we \_\_\_\_ not arrive on time.  
a) might  
b) would  
c) should  
d) must

11. If the interview goes well, they \_\_\_\_ offer me the job.  
a) would  
b) had to  
c) could  
d) should have
12. If your back hurts, you \_\_\_\_ try some gentle stretching.  
a) would  
b) might have  
c) shall  
d) should
13. If the boss asks, \_\_\_\_ him I've gone to lunch.  
a) tell  
b) telling  
c) told  
d) tells
14. If we save enough, we \_\_\_\_ going to travel to Japan next summer.  
a) will  
b) are  
c) would be  
d) were
15. If you don't book soon, there \_\_\_\_ not be any seats left.  
a) would  
b) should  
c) could have  
d) may
16. If you find my keys, \_\_\_\_ bring them to reception.  
a) you will  
b) please  
c) you should  
d) you are
17. If the test is too difficult, the students \_\_\_\_ not be able to finish it.  
a) would  
b) should  
c) must  
d) might
18. If you want to improve your English, you \_\_\_\_ read more books.  
a) would  
b) must have  
c) should  
d) might have
19. If you break the rules, you \_\_\_\_ be asked to leave.  
a) can  
b) would  
c) should have  
d) must have
20. If the alarm goes off, \_\_\_\_ touch anything and wait for instructions.  
a) not  
b) doesn't  
c) never  
d) don't



## Answers

1. b) might
2. a) can
3. b) call
4. c) am
5. a) should
6. d) can
7. a) may
8. c) don't
9. b) will
10. a) might
11. c) could
12. d) should
13. a) tell
14. b) are
15. d) may
16. b) please
17. d) might
18. c) should
19. a) can
20. d) don't



# Explanations

## 1. “might” (b)

'Might' expresses possibility — cancellation is not certain, just possible. The sentence 'It depends on how heavy the rain is' makes it clear that cancellation is uncertain. In the first conditional, the result clause can use 'might' instead of 'will' for uncertain outcomes.

## 2. “can” (a)

'Can' in the result clause expresses permission. 'If you finish early, you can leave' = you are allowed to leave.

## 3. “call” (b)

This uses an imperative (command) in the result clause. 'Call 999' is a direct instruction — no subject is needed.

## 4. “am” (c)

'Going to' can replace 'will' in the result clause to express a planned intention: 'I am going to buy'. It suggests the decision is already made.

## 5. “should” (a)

'Should' in the result clause gives advice: 'you should see a doctor'. It's softer than 'must' and appropriate for friendly suggestions.

## 6. “can” (d)

'Can' expresses ability/option: 'we can always ask'. It shows we have the option available if the situation arises.

## 7. “may” (a)

'May' expresses possibility, similar to 'might' but slightly more formal. 'We may have to' = it's possible we'll need to.

## 8. “don't” (c)

This is a negative imperative: 'Don't go outside alone'. Negative imperatives use 'don't + base verb' to give a safety instruction.

## 9. “will” (b)

'Will' here expresses certainty — pressing the button definitely opens the door. Use 'will' for sure results, 'might/may' for uncertain ones.

## 10. “might” (a)

'Might not' expresses uncertain possibility — arriving late is possible but not certain. It's less definite than 'won't'.

## 11. “could” (c)

'Could' in the result clause expresses possibility: 'they could offer me the job' = it's possible they will. It's similar to 'might'.

## 12. “should” (d)

'Should' gives advice: 'you should try stretching'. It's a recommendation, not a command.

## 13. “tell” (a)

Imperative in the result clause: 'tell him'. This is a request/instruction to the listener.

## 14. “are” (b)

'We are going to travel' expresses a planned intention. 'Going to' in the result clause shows the plan already exists; the if-clause is the remaining condition.

**15. “may” (d)**

'May not' expresses possibility — seats running out is likely but not guaranteed. It warns about a possible future situation.

**16. “please” (b)**

This is a polite imperative: 'please bring them to reception'. Adding 'please' to an imperative makes a polite request.

**17. “might” (d)**

'Might not be able to' expresses uncertain possibility. The outcome depends on how difficult the test actually is.

**18. “should” (c)**

'Should' gives advice: 'you should read more books'. It's a suggestion, not an obligation.

**19. “can” (a)**

'Can' here expresses a real possibility/consequence. 'You can be asked to leave' = it's possible that this will happen as a consequence.

**20. “don't” (d)**

Negative imperative: 'Don't touch anything'. In emergencies, the first conditional often pairs with imperative commands for safety instructions.