Mixed Conditionals:
Advanced Conditional Structures: Alternatives to 'If'

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. ___ the pilot's quick reflexes, the plane would have crashed during the storm.
   a) But for
   b) Despite
   c) Because of
   d) In spite of

2. But for the invention of antibiotics, millions of people ___ to common infections over the past century.
   a) would succumb
   b) will have succumbed
   c) had succumbed
   d) would have succumbed

3. But for her chronic back pain, she ___ in the upcoming marathon.
   a) would have competed
   b) would be competing
   c) will compete
   d) competed

4. The university will grant you a scholarship ___ you maintain a minimum GPA of 3.5 throughout the academic year.
   a) supposing that
   b) but for
   c) provided that
   d) otherwise

5. Employees may work remotely ___ they submit their weekly reports by Friday.
   a) providing
   b) unless
   c) but for
   d) despite

6. The landlord agreed to reduce the rent ___ the tenants signed a two-year lease.
   a) but for
   b) otherwise
   c) on behalf of
   d) as long as

7. The experiment can proceed ___ all safety protocols are strictly followed.
   a) but for
   b) so long as
   c) in case
   d) or else

8. The judge agreed to grant bail ___ the defendant surrendered his passport and reported to the police station weekly.
   a) as a result of
   b) in the event that
   c) on condition that
   d) regardless of

9. ___ that we receive the signed contract by Friday, we will proceed with the shipment as planned.
   a) Assuming
   b) Despite
   c) But for
   d) Otherwise

10. ___ you were offered the position but it required relocating abroad, would you still accept it?
    a) Despite
    b) But for
    c) Unless
    d) Supposing

11.   Hikers are permitted to camp in the national park ___ they obtain a permit and follow the leave-no-trace principles.

    a) despite   b) provided

    c) but for   d) in case

12.   All delegates must register before the conference begins; ___, they will not be admitted to the sessions.

    a) assuming   b) provided

    c) otherwise   d) supposing

13.   You need to submit the report by the end of the day, ___ the client will cancel the contract.

    a) or else   b) provided that

    c) supposing   d) as long as

14.   The clinical trial will proceed to the next phase ___ the interim results demonstrate no significant adverse effects.

    a) despite that   b) in order that

    c) even though   d) provided that

15.   The outdoor market will be held as planned ___ there is a severe weather warning.

    a) supposing   b) unless

    c) provided   d) or else

16.   ___ your timely intervention, the situation would have escalated beyond control.

    a) Thanks to   b) In spite of

    c) But for   d) As a result of

17.   Even ___ the company offered me double my current salary, I would not consider working there again.

    a) if   b) provided

    c) so long as   d) but for

18.   ___ we lost our biggest client tomorrow, would the company survive?

    a) Provided   b) As long as

    c) On condition that   d) Supposing

19.   The new regulations require all imported goods to be thoroughly inspected; ___, contaminated products could enter the market.

    a) provided   b) otherwise

    c) assuming   d) supposing

20.   ___ your performance fall below the expected standards, the remote work arrangement may be subject to review.

    a) But for   b) Provided

    c) Should   d) Supposing

Answers

1. a) But for

2. d) would have succumbed

3. b) would be competing

4. c) provided that

5. a) providing

6. d) as long as

7. b) so long as

8. c) on condition that

9. a) Assuming

10. d) Supposing

11. b) provided

12. c) otherwise

13. a) or else

14. d) provided that

15. b) unless

16. c) But for

17. a) if

18. d) Supposing

19. b) otherwise

20. c) Should

Explanations

1. "But for" (a)

'But for' means 'If it had not been for' or 'Without,' creating a conditional meaning. 'Despite' and 'In spite of' are concessive — they would mean the plane crashed REGARDLESS of the reflexes. 'Because of' would mean the reflexes CAUSED the crash, reversing the intended meaning.

2. "would have succumbed" (d)

'But for the invention of antibiotics' = 'If antibiotics had not been invented.' The phrase 'over the past century' refers to a past period, requiring the third conditional: 'would have + past participle.' 'Would succumb' is for present/future hypothetical, 'will have succumbed' is future perfect, and 'had succumbed' is past perfect without conditional meaning.

3. "would be competing" (b)

'But for her chronic back pain' = 'If it were not for her back pain' — a present ongoing condition. The 'upcoming marathon' is a future event, making this a second conditional. 'Would be competing' expresses the ongoing nature of participation. 'Would have competed' is third conditional (past), 'will compete' is for real situations, and 'competed' is past simple.

4. "provided that" (c)

'Provided that' sets a real condition — the scholarship depends on maintaining the GPA. 'Supposing that' is for hypothetical scenarios ('Imagine if...'), not factual conditions. 'But for' requires a noun, not a clause, and means 'if not for.' 'Otherwise' introduces a consequence, not a condition.

5. "providing" (a)

'Providing (that)' means 'on condition that' — employees can work remotely IF they submit reports. 'Unless' means 'if not,' so 'unless they submit' would mean they can work remotely only if they DON'T submit reports — the opposite meaning. 'But for' requires a noun, and 'despite' is concessive.

6. "as long as" (d)

'As long as' introduces a condition: the rent reduction depends on signing the lease. 'But for' + noun means 'if not for' (different meaning). 'Otherwise' introduces a consequence, not a condition. 'On behalf of' means 'representing someone' — a completely different meaning.

7. "so long as" (b)

'So long as' (= 'as long as') sets a condition: the experiment is allowed IF safety protocols are followed. 'But for' requires a noun phrase. 'In case' means 'as a precaution,' not 'on condition that.' 'Or else' introduces a threat or consequence, not a condition.

8. "on condition that" (c)

'On condition that' specifies a formal requirement — bail was granted with mandatory stipulations. 'As a result of' indicates consequence, reversing the meaning. 'In the event that' is for uncertain contingencies, not mandatory requirements. 'Regardless of' means 'irrespective of' — the opposite of a condition.

9. "Assuming" (a)

'Assuming (that)' means 'on the assumption that' or 'if.' It introduces a condition treated as likely. 'Despite' is concessive and doesn't take 'that + clause' in standard English. 'But for' requires a noun phrase. 'Otherwise' is an adverb introducing consequences, not conditions.

10. "Supposing" (d)
'Supposing' introduces a hypothetical scenario for consideration — 'Imagine if you were offered...' It's used for 'what if?' questions. 'Despite' is concessive. 'But for' requires a noun. 'Unless' means 'if not,' which would change the meaning to 'If you were NOT offered the position.'

11. "provided" (b)
'Provided (that)' sets a condition — camping is allowed IF hikers get a permit and follow the rules. 'Despite' means 'in spite of' (concessive). 'But for' requires a noun phrase. 'In case' means 'as a precaution,' which doesn't convey a mandatory requirement.

12. "otherwise" (c)
'Otherwise' functions as an implied conditional: 'if they do not register, they will not be admitted.' It introduces the negative consequence after a semicolon. 'Assuming,' 'provided,' and 'supposing' introduce conditions, but the sentence structure requires a linking adverb showing consequence.

13. "or else" (a)
'Or else' introduces a negative consequence: 'If you don't submit the report, the client will cancel.' Like 'otherwise,' it creates an implied conditional warning. 'Provided that,' 'supposing,' and 'as long as' introduce conditions, not consequences.

14. "provided that" (d)
'Provided that' sets a condition for the trial to continue. 'Despite that' and 'even though' are concessive — they would imply the trial proceeds REGARDLESS of the results. 'In order that' expresses purpose, not condition.

15. "unless" (b)
'Unless' means 'except if.' The market WILL be held EXCEPT IF there is a severe weather warning. 'Supposing' introduces a hypothetical for discussion. 'Provided' would mean the market is held IF there IS a warning — the opposite meaning. 'Or else' introduces a consequence, not an exception.

16. "But for" (c)
'But for' = 'If it had not been for' — without your intervention, the situation would have escalated. 'Thanks to' normally precedes a positive actual outcome, not a hypothetical negative one with 'would have.' 'In spite of' would mean it escalated DESPITE the intervention. 'As a result of' would mean the intervention CAUSED the escalation.

17. "if" (a)
'Even if' is a fixed expression meaning 'even in the hypothetical case that,' emphasising the result would not change. You cannot substitute 'provided,' 'so long as,' or 'but for' after 'even' — only 'if' (and 'though') combine with 'even' this way.

18. "Supposing" (d)
'Supposing' is for exploring hypothetical scenarios: 'What if we lost our biggest client?' 'Provided,' 'as long as,' and 'on condition that' set conditions for desired outcomes (e.g., 'We'll succeed provided that...'). They don't naturally introduce hypothetical questions about negative scenarios.

19. "otherwise" (b)
'Otherwise' creates an implied conditional after a semicolon: 'If goods are NOT inspected, contaminated products could enter.' It introduces the consequence of not following the stated requirement. The other options introduce conditions, not consequences.

20. "Should" (c)
'Should + subject + base verb' is an inverted first conditional used in formal communication. 'Should your performance fall' = 'If your performance falls.' The base form 'fall' (not 'falls') is the key: 'Should' requires the base form. 'Provided' and 'Supposing' require the indicative 'falls,' not 'fall.' 'But for' requires a noun phrase.