Second Conditional:
Second Conditional Basics: Affirmative & Negative Forms

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. If I ___ more money, I would buy a new car.
    a) will have
    b) had
    c) have
    d) am having

2. She would travel the world if she ___ the time.
    a) will have
    b) has
    c) had
    d) would have

3. If he ___ harder, he would get better grades.
    a) studied
    b) studies
    c) will study
    d) would study

4. I ___ a big house if I won the lottery.
    a) buy
    b) will buy
    c) am buying
    d) would buy

5. If we ___ near the beach, we would go swimming every day.
    a) live
    b) will live
    c) lived
    d) are living

6. They ___ very happy if they had more free time.
    a) are
    b) would be
    c) will be
    d) are being

7. If I ___ the answer, I would tell you.
    a) know
    b) will know
    c) am knowing
    d) knew

8. Tom ___ a famous chef if he practised cooking every day.
    a) becomes
    b) would become
    c) will become
    d) became

9. If she ___ English fluently, she would apply for that international job.
    a) spoke
    b) speaks
    c) will speak
    d) is speaking

10. We would visit you more often if you ___ so far away.
    a) don't live
    b) won't live
    c) aren't living
    d) didn't live

11. If I ___ a car, I wouldn't have to take the bus every day.
   a) have
   b) had
   c) will have
   d) am having

12. She ___ to the party if someone invited her.
   a) would go
   b) goes
   c) will go
   d) went

13. If they ___ the house, they would move to a smaller flat.
   a) sell
   b) will sell
   c) are selling
   d) sold

14. I would learn to play the guitar if I ___ more free time.
   a) will have
   b) had
   c) have
   d) am having

15. If the company ___ him a higher salary, he would stay.
   a) will offer
   b) offers
   c) offered
   d) is offering

16. We ___ more money if we didn't eat out so often.
   a) would save
   b) save
   c) will save
   d) saved

17. If you ___ the bus, you wouldn't arrive on time.
   a) will miss
   b) miss
   c) missed
   d) are missing

18. My parents ___ so proud if I got into a top university.
   a) are
   b) will be
   c) are being
   d) would be

19. If he ___ about the surprise party, he would definitely come.
   a) will know
   b) knows
   c) knew
   d) is knowing

20. I'd help you move house if I ___ this weekend.
   a) didn't work
   b) don't work
   c) won't work
   d) am not working

Answers

1. b) had
2. c) had
3. a) studied
4. d) would buy
5. c) lived
6. b) would be
7. d) knew
8. b) would become
9. a) spoke
10. d) didn't live
11. b) had
12. a) would go
13. d) sold
14. b) had
15. c) offered
16. a) would save
17. c) missed
18. d) would be
19. c) knew
20. a) didn't work

Explanations

1. "had" (b)

In the second conditional, the if-clause uses past simple: 'If I had'. This describes an imaginary situation — you don't have more money now. Never use 'will' in the if-clause.

2. "had" (c)

The if-clause uses past simple even when it comes second: 'if she had'. She doesn't have the time — this is imaginary. The result clause 'She would travel' uses would + base verb.

3. "studied" (a)

Past simple in the if-clause: 'If he studied'. He doesn't study hard now — this is an imaginary improvement. Don't use 'would' or 'will' in the if-clause.

4. "would buy" (d)

The result clause uses 'would + base verb': 'I would buy'. Winning the lottery is very unlikely, making this a classic second conditional sentence about an imaginary event.

5. "lived" (c)

Past simple in the if-clause: 'If we lived'. We don't live near the beach — this is an imaginary situation. 'Live' (present) would make it a zero conditional; 'lived' (past) makes it second conditional.

6. "would be" (b)

The result clause uses 'would + be': 'They would be happy'. 'Will be' is for the first conditional (real situations); 'would be' is for the second conditional (imaginary situations).

7. "knew" (d)

Past simple: 'If I knew'. 'Know' is irregular — past simple is 'knew', not 'knowed'. 'Am knowing' is also wrong because 'know' is a stative verb that doesn't use the continuous form.

8. "would become" (b)

The result clause uses 'would + base verb': 'Tom would become'. The if-clause 'if he practised' uses past simple. Tom doesn't practise every day — this is an imaginary scenario.

9. "spoke" (a)

Past simple: 'If she spoke'. 'Speak' is irregular — past simple is 'spoke'. She doesn't speak English fluently now, so this is an imaginary situation described with the second conditional.

10. "didn't live" (d)

The negative if-clause uses 'didn't + base verb': 'if you didn't live so far away'. In the second conditional, use past simple negative (didn't), not present simple negative (don't).

11. "had" (b)

Past simple: 'If I had a car'. The negative result 'wouldn't have to' means 'would not have to take the bus'. The speaker doesn't have a car — this is an imaginary situation.

12. "would go" (a)

The result clause uses 'would + base verb': 'She would go'. The if-clause 'if someone invited her' uses past simple. Nobody has invited her — it's an imaginary situation.

13. "sold" (d)

Past simple: 'If they sold'. 'Sell' is irregular — past simple is 'sold'. They aren't selling the house; this is a hypothetical scenario about what might happen.

14. "had" (b)

Past simple: 'if I had'. The speaker doesn't have enough free time now, so learning guitar is just a dream — an unreal situation expressed with the second conditional.

15. "offered" (c)

Past simple: 'If the company offered'. The company hasn't offered a raise — this is a hypothetical condition. The result 'he would stay' depends on this imaginary offer.

16. "would save" (a)

The result clause uses 'would + base verb': 'We would save'. The negative if-clause 'if we didn't eat out' describes an imaginary change in habit — they do eat out often in reality.

17. "missed" (c)

Past simple: 'If you missed'. The negative result 'wouldn't arrive' shows the imaginary consequence. This describes a hypothetical situation, not a specific future event.

18. "would be" (d)

The result clause uses 'would + be': 'would be so proud'. 'Will be' would make this a first conditional (real expectation); 'would be' makes it a second conditional (hopeful imagining).

19. "knew" (c)

Past simple: 'If he knew'. He doesn't know about the party — that's why it's a surprise! 'Is knowing' is incorrect because 'know' is a stative verb that can't be used in the continuous form.

20. "didn't work" (a)

Past simple negative: 'if I didn't work'. 'I'd' is the contracted form of 'I would'. The speaker has to work this weekend, so helping is not possible — this is an imaginary scenario.