



Answers

1. a) were
2. d) hadn't missed
3. a) would apply
4. b) would have got
5. c) had
6. a) had heeded
7. c) were
8. b) could have won
9. d) had
10. d) had trained
11. c) stopped
12. b) had known
13. a) lived
14. b) had read
15. a) didn't drink
16. c) could have
17. d) were
18. d) had invested
19. c) did
20. b) had taken



Explanations

1. “were” (a)

This is a second conditional sentence — the speaker is talking about an imaginary present situation (being short now). Use 'If I were' (past simple/subjunctive), not 'If I had been' (which would be third conditional, about the past).

2. “hadn't missed” (d)

This is a third conditional sentence — she missed the bus yesterday (past). Use past perfect in the if-clause: 'If she hadn't missed'. 'Didn't miss' is past simple, used in the second conditional's if-clause for present unreal.

3. “would apply” (a)

Second conditional — the speaker doesn't speak French now. The result clause uses 'would + base verb': 'I would apply'. 'Would have applied' is third conditional and would mean a past situation.

4. “would have got” (b)

Third conditional — they booked late last week (past event). The result clause uses 'would have + past participle': 'we would have got'. 'Would get' is second conditional for present unreal.

5. “had” (c)

Second conditional — he doesn't own a car now. Use past simple in the if-clause: 'If he had'. 'Had had' is past perfect and would make this third conditional (about the past).

6. “had heeded” (a)

Third conditional — they ignored the warning last night (past). Use past perfect: 'If they had heeded'. Simple past 'heeded' would suggest second conditional (present unreal).

7. “were” (c)

Second conditional — 'If I were you' is a fixed expression for giving advice about a present situation. Use subjunctive 'were', not 'had been' (which would make it third conditional/past).

8. “could have won” (b)

Third conditional — the competition was last month (past). Use 'could have + past participle': 'she could have won'. 'Could win' is second conditional for present/future unreal.

9. “had” (d)

Second conditional — the speaker is busy now (present unreal). Use past simple: 'If I had more free time'. 'Had had' would be third conditional, talking about a past situation.

10. “had trained” (d)

Third conditional — last season is past. Use past perfect: 'If the team had trained harder'. Simple past 'trained' would suggest present unreal (second conditional).

11. “stopped” (c)

Second conditional — it's raining right now, and we're imagining a different present. Use past simple: 'If it stopped raining'. 'Had stopped' is past perfect (third conditional), which would refer to a past event.

12. “had known” (b)

Third conditional — nobody told the speaker before the meeting (past). Use past perfect: 'If I had known'. 'Knew' is past simple (second conditional) for present unreal situations.

13. “lived” (a)

Second conditional — she lives in a small town now (present unreal). Use past simple: 'If she lived'. 'Had lived' would be third conditional, about a past situation.

14. “had read” (b)

Third conditional — she rushed through the instructions in the past. Use past perfect: 'If she had read'. 'Read' (past simple) would suggest second conditional (present unreal).

15. “didn't drink” (a)

Second conditional — he drinks a lot of coffee now (present habit). Use past simple: 'If he didn't drink'. 'Hadn't drunk' is past perfect (third conditional) for past events.

16. “could have” (c)

Third conditional — their twenties are in the past. Use 'could have + past participle': 'they could have retired'. They didn't save, so early retirement wasn't possible.

17. “were” (d)

Second conditional — the speaker isn't rich now. Use subjunctive 'were': 'If I were rich'. 'Had been' would be third conditional and would mean 'if I had been rich in the past'.

18. “had invested” (d)

This is a mixed conditional: a third conditional if-clause ('last decade' = past) combined with a second conditional result ('today' = present). The if-clause uses past perfect 'had invested' because it refers to a past action. The result uses 'would be' because it describes a present situation.

19. “did” (c)

Second conditional — you don't exercise now (present unreal). Use past simple: 'If you did more exercise'. 'Had done' is third conditional for past situations.

20. “had taken” (b)

Third conditional — they already took the afternoon flight (past event). Use past perfect: 'If they had taken'. Simple past 'took' is second conditional for present unreal.