Inversion:
Conditional Inversion & So/Such Emphasis

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. ___ I known about the traffic, I would have left earlier.
   a) Had
   b) If
   c) Would
   d) Have

2. ___ she to apply for the job, she would certainly get it.
   a) If
   b) Were
   c) Was
   d) Should

3. So beautiful ___ that everyone stopped to admire it.
   a) the painting was
   b) the painting is
   c) was the painting
   d) the painting had been

4. ___ you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.
   a) If
   b) When
   c) Would
   d) Should

5. ___ it not been for your help, we would have failed.
   a) Had
   b) If
   c) Were
   d) Has

6. Such ___ that the audience gave a standing ovation.
   a) her performance was
   b) was her performance
   c) her performance is
   d) had her performance been

7. ___ the weather to improve, we could go hiking this weekend.
   a) If
   b) Should
   c) Were
   d) Would

8. So quickly ___ that nobody could catch him.
   a) he ran
   b) he did run
   c) running he
   d) did he run

9. ___ any problems arise, please inform the supervisor immediately.
   a) Should
   b) If
   c) When
   d) Would

10. ___ it not for the scholarship, he could not afford university.
    a) If
    b) Were
    c) Was
    d) Has

11. So impressed ___ that he offered her the job on the spot.
    a) the manager was
    b) the manager had been
    c) was the manager
    d) the manager is

12. Such ___ that the school decided to close for the day.
    a) severe the storm was
    b) the storm was severe
    c) the storm's severity was
    d) was the severity of the storm

13. ___ he arrived a minute later, he would have missed the flight.
    a) Had
    b) If
    c) Should
    d) Were

14. So heavy ___ that the branches began to break.
    a) the snow was
    b) was the snow
    c) the snow is
    d) had the snow been

15. ___ they to discover the truth, the consequences would be severe.
    a) If
    b) Should
    c) Were
    d) Would

16. If I ___ rich, I would travel the world.
    a) am
    b) had been
    c) would be
    d) were

17. If she ___ harder, she would have passed the exam.
    a) had studied
    b) studied
    c) would study
    d) has studied

18. The painting was so beautiful ___ everyone wanted to buy it.
    a) than
    b) that
    c) then
    d) what

19. If you ___ any questions, please ask the receptionist.
    a) should
    b) would
    c) have
    d) had

20. If it ___ for her support, I would not have succeeded.
    a) were not
    b) is not
    c) was not
    d) had not been

Answers

1. a) Had

2. b) Were

3. c) was the painting

4. d) Should

5. a) Had

6. b) was her performance

7. c) Were

8. d) did he run

9. a) Should

10. b) Were

11. c) was the manager

12. d) was the severity of the storm

13. a) Had

14. b) was the snow

15. c) Were

16. d) were

17. a) had studied

18. b) that

19. c) have

20. d) had not been

Explanations

1. "Had" (a)
In formal English, third conditionals can drop 'if' and invert 'had' + subject: 'Had I known...' = 'If I had known...' This is common in formal writing.

2. "Were" (b)
In formal English, second conditionals can drop 'if' and use 'Were + subject + to-infinitive': 'Were she to apply...' = 'If she were to apply...' Always use 'were' (not 'was') in this structure.

3. "was the painting" (c)
When 'So + adjective' begins the sentence for emphasis, the verb inverts with the subject: 'So beautiful was the painting that...' The 'that' clause states the result.

4. "Should" (d)
'Should' can replace 'If' at the start of first conditionals in formal English: 'Should you need...' = 'If you should need...' This is very common in formal letters and business English.

5. "Had" (a)
'Had it not been for' is the inverted form of 'If it had not been for'. It expresses a past hypothetical condition: 'Had it not been for your help, we would have failed.'

6. "was her performance" (b)
When 'Such' begins the sentence for emphasis, the verb inverts: 'Such was her performance that...' This means 'Her performance was so remarkable that...'

7. "Were" (c)
'Were + subject + to-infinitive' replaces 'If' in formal second conditionals: 'Were the weather to improve...' = 'If the weather were to improve...' It expresses an unlikely but possible condition.

8. "did he run" (d)
When 'So + adverb' begins the sentence, 'did' + base form is used for past simple inversion: 'So quickly did he run that nobody could catch him.'

9. "Should" (a)
'Should' at the start replaces 'if' in formal conditionals: 'Should any problems arise...' = 'If any problems should arise...' This is common in official instructions and formal writing.

10. "Were" (b)
'Were it not for' is the inverted form of 'If it were not for'. It expresses a present hypothetical: 'Were it not for the scholarship, he could not afford university.'

11. "was the manager" (c)
'So + adjective' at the front triggers verb-subject inversion: 'So impressed was the manager that he offered her the job on the spot.' The 'that' clause gives the result.

12. "was the severity of the storm" (d)
'Such + be + noun' at the front: 'Such was the severity of the storm that...' The verb 'was' inverts before the noun phrase. This is a formal emphatic structure.

13. "Had" (a)
Third conditional inversion: 'Had he arrived...' = 'If he had arrived...' The past perfect auxiliary 'had' moves to the front, replacing 'if'.

14. "was the snow" (b)

'So + adjective' at the front triggers inversion: 'So heavy was the snow that the branches began to break.' The verb 'was' moves before the subject 'the snow'.

15. "Were" (c)

'Were + subject + to-infinitive' is a formal second conditional without 'if': 'Were they to discover the truth...' = 'If they were to discover the truth...' It suggests an unlikely possibility.

16. "were" (d)

This is a standard second conditional with 'If' present — no inversion is needed. Use 'were' (subjunctive) for all persons in formal English: 'If I were rich...' Compare the inverted form: 'Were I rich...'

17. "had studied" (a)

This is a standard third conditional with 'If' — no inversion is needed. Use the past perfect: 'If she had studied harder...' Compare the inverted form: 'Had she studied harder...'

18. "that" (b)

When 'so + adjective' is NOT at the beginning of the sentence, no inversion is needed. Simply use 'that' to introduce the result clause: 'The painting was so beautiful that everyone wanted to buy it.'

19. "have" (c)

This is a standard first conditional with 'If' — no inversion is needed. Use present simple: 'If you have any questions...' Compare the inverted form: 'Should you have any questions...'

20. "had not been" (d)

This is a standard third conditional with 'If' — no inversion is needed. Use the past perfect: 'If it had not been for her support...' Compare the inverted form: 'Had it not been for her support...'