

**GAIN**

**Learning Objective**

In this lesson, you will learn to choose the correct verb form in sentences with *if* clauses.

## Conditional Verb Forms

The **conditional tense** is used to talk about something you want to happen, something that might happen in the future, or something that could have happened in the past. Conditional statements use two clauses: the conditional, or *if*, clause, and the main clause.

*If it starts raining, I will need to buy an umbrella.*  
conditional                      main

The *if* clause tells what conditions must be present for the action of the main clause to take place.

- ▶ If what is said in the conditional clause is **actually possible**, use the present tense in the conditional clause and the present or future tense in the main clause.

*If we don't know where we are, we are lost.*  
present                      present

This present-present construction describes **conditions that coexist**: if something is true, then something else is also true.

The following present-future construction describes a **cause and effect**: if something happens, then something else will be the result.

*If Gwen doesn't finish her work, she will have to stay late.*  
present                      future

- ▶ If what is said in the conditional clause is **unlikely** or **impossible**, use the past tense in the conditional clause and *would* + the present tense in the main clause.

*If I won a million dollars, I would quit my job.*  
past                      would + present

- ▶ If what is said in the conditional clause is something that **didn't actually happen**, use the past perfect tense in the conditional clause and *would* + the present perfect tense in the main clause.

*If Luis had been two seconds faster, he would have won the race.*  
past perfect                      would + present perfect

### Understand It

1. What word signals a conditional construction? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Conditional constructions always use the future tense. **True** **False**

Sometimes the order of the conditional sentence is switched. Notice that when this happens, the rules governing the verb tenses remain the same.

*If I didn't watch so much television, I would have more time to read.*  
past                      would + present

*I would have more time to read if I didn't watch so much television.*  
would + present                      past

- ▶ If the main clause is first, there is no comma between the main clause and the conditional clause. Otherwise, use a comma to separate the clauses.

*Javier will go to the concert if he can find a babysitter for tonight.*

*If Javier can find a babysitter for tonight, he will go to the concert.*

Sometimes, the signal word *if* is left out of the sentence, and the conditional is implied. The situations being described are hypothetical, not actual. The comma rule still applies.

*Kevin would not have run a red light had he been paying attention.*

*Had Kevin been paying attention, he would not have run a red light.*

### Example

**Which of the following is a conditional clause?**

- A. Had Kevin been paying attention
- B. he would not have run a red light
- C. run a red light
- D. been paying attention

**Step 1** ▶ Read the sentences above. Then read the answer choices. Which part of each sentence describes a condition that does not actually exist? This is the conditional clause. Which part describes a result, or something that is dependent on the other part of the sentence? This is the main clause.

**Step 2** ▶ Insert the word *if* and analyze the verb tenses to check your answer. Which of the following makes more sense?

*If Kevin had been paying attention, he would not have run a red light.*

*If Kevin would not have run the red light, he had been paying attention.*

Answer: A—Had Kevin been paying attention

### Think About It

Decide which answer choice can be restated to include the signal word *if*.

**Teacher Reminder**

Review the teacher lesson at [www.mysteckvaughn.com/GAIN](http://www.mysteckvaughn.com/GAIN)

**CONNECTED LEARNING**



## Before You Begin

Underline the conditional clause in each sentence.

### TIPS & HINTS

**Remember** that *if* is the signal word for a conditional clause.

**Notice** that this construction uses an implied *if*. Change the wording to the traditional *if* construction to correctly identify the tense.



**Circle** the available verb in the sentence, whether it's in the conditional clause or the main clause.

## Try It

Choose the verb form that correctly completes the sentence.

1. If Jairo \_\_\_?\_\_\_ work by 5 P.M., he will be home in time for dinner.
- A. had left
  - B. leaves
  - C. would have left
  - D. would leave

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check Your Answer

Identify the available verb form. The main clause says *he will be home*. This is the future tense. Remember that a main future tense works with a conditional present tense. In this sentence, if Jairo *leaves* work by 5 P.M., he *will be* home in time for dinner. The cause-and-effect relationship uses the present-future construction.

**Answer:** The correct verb form is **leaves**.

2. Marnie \_\_\_?\_\_\_ a new couch had she saved her extra money last year.
- A. had afforded
  - B. will afford
  - C. affords
  - D. could have afforded

Your Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

## Check Your Answer

Identify the available verb form. The conditional clause has an implied *if*. You need to change it to a traditional construction to correctly identify the verb form: *if she had saved*. The sentence is implying that the conditions described did not actually happen. The use of the past perfect tense in the conditional clause works with the present perfect tense in the main clause. Marnie *could have afforded* a new couch *if she had saved* her extra money.

**Answer:** The correct verb form is **could have afforded**.

## GAIN Practice

Directions: Choose the verb form that correctly completes each sentence.

1. My daughter will be a college student next semester if she \_\_\_?\_\_\_ her classes.
- A. passes
  - B. passed
  - C. pass
  - D. is passed
2. We would not be making posters if the dog \_\_\_?\_\_\_ not run away.
- A. will have
  - B. has
  - C. had
  - D. is having
3. Had I been a doctor, I \_\_\_?\_\_\_ offered discounts to families.
- A. would be
  - B. will have
  - C. would have
  - D. am
4. Had you started cooking earlier, you \_\_\_?\_\_\_ eating dinner by now.
- A. would be
  - B. will have
  - C. would have
  - D. won't have
5. Martin will get a raise in pay this summer if he \_\_\_?\_\_\_ his boss.
- A. impressed
  - B. impress
  - C. is impressed
  - D. impresses
6. Next year Julia will be living in New York if she \_\_\_?\_\_\_ to study acting.
- A. decided
  - B. will decide
  - C. is deciding
  - D. decides

Continued on next page ►

## GAIN Practice *continued*

7. If I hadn't found my jacket, I \_\_\_?\_\_\_ to buy a new one.  
A. would had  
B. would have had  
C. will have  
D. will have had
8. Marcos \_\_\_?\_\_\_ back from the grocery store already if he had left sooner.  
A. would be  
B. will be  
C. had  
D. is having
9. Had the weather been nicer, our picnic \_\_\_?\_\_\_ a success.  
A. would be  
B. will have been  
C. would have been  
D. won't have been
10. I promised my kids that we will get a pet if they \_\_\_?\_\_\_ well on their next report cards.  
A. perform  
B. performs  
C. performed  
D. is performing
11. Had I known that you were going to visit Keith, I \_\_\_?\_\_\_ asked you to take a gift to him.  
A. would be  
B. will have  
C. would have  
D. won't be
12. If Tessa keeps practicing basketball, she \_\_\_?\_\_\_ the team.  
A. will make  
B. would make  
C. did make  
D. made
13. Next year Mario will get a promotion if he \_\_\_?\_\_\_ an online college course.  
A. took  
B. takes  
C. had taken  
D. take
14. If Felix saves money over the summer, he \_\_\_?\_\_\_ enough to buy a car by autumn.  
A. has  
B. will have  
C. would be  
D. won't be
15. Lakeisha will walk the dogs for Tony if he \_\_\_?\_\_\_ her laundry.  
A. is washing  
B. wash  
C. washed  
D. washes
16. Had Cesar arrived earlier, the meeting \_\_\_?\_\_\_ started on time.  
A. won't be  
B. will have  
C. would be  
D. would have
17. Cerie will help train new employees tomorrow if Sarah \_\_\_?\_\_\_ in sick again.  
A. call  
B. calls  
C. called  
D. would call
18. Had I known that my son's class needed more assistance, I \_\_\_?\_\_\_ volunteered to help.  
A. would have  
B. will have  
C. would be  
D. won't be

Check your answers on page 143.