

Real and unreal conditionals

A. Read the story about Gary quickly, ignoring the gaps. What's the moral of the story?

Gary jumped out of the taxi, feeling confident and ready for his big presentation. He had spent weeks preparing for (0) ~~this~~ moment and had practised his speech many times. But as he turned to grab his bag, he realised it was nowhere to be found. He knew he had left it in the taxi.

"Every time people come unprepared, the boss (1) angry," Gary thought. All of his important notes and documents were in there. He had put everything he needed for the presentation in that bag, including his laptop and handouts. Without it, he would fail. He started to panic

"I (2) fail the presentation and lose my job if I don't do something," he thought. He had (3) working at this company for years and had always wanted to get promoted. This presentation was his chance to show his boss that he had what it takes to succeed. If he had a spare set of documents, he (4) still have a chance, but it wasn't his lucky day. His secretary had recycled the spare documents the night before, thinking they were rubbish. He sat in the office, defeated.

"Maybe I can do (5) from memory," he thought as he walked into the room. Instead, he forgot his lines and spilled water all over the projector. His nerves had got the best of him. He stumbled through his presentation, making several embarrassing mistakes.

But as he walked out of the building, something amazing happened. A recruiter from another company approached him and offered him a job. If he hadn't lost his bag, he never would (6) met this recruiter and been presented with such an amazing opportunity. The recruiter had been in the audience during Gary's presentation and had been impressed by his confidence and charisma, despite the mishaps.

In the (7) , Gary learned that sometimes losing something can lead to unexpected and exciting possibilities. And next time, he promised himself that he would hold onto his bag tightly. He also saw that if things (8) gone as planned, he wouldn't have this new chance for redemption and fresh beginnings.

B. For questions 1-8, read the text above and think of the word which best fits the gap. Use only one word in each gap. There is an example at the beginning (0).

C. Many of the gaps in the text are in conditional sentences. Identify the five different types of conditionals from the text and add them to the grammar explanation below.

Zero Conditional: In the zero conditional, the condition and the result are both in the present tense, and the condition is always true. It is used to describe things that are generally true or to give instructions.

Example:

First Conditional: In the first conditional, the condition is in the present tense and the result is in the future tense. It is used to talk about a possible future situation and its result.

Example:

Second Conditional: In the second conditional, the condition is in the past tense and the result is in the present conditional. It is used to talk about an imaginary or unlikely situation and its result.

Example:

Third Conditional: In the third conditional, the condition is in the past perfect tense and the result is in the past conditional. It is used to talk about a hypothetical situation that did not happen in the past.

Example:

Mixed Conditional: A mixed conditional sentence is a combination of the second and third conditional. In the mixed conditional, the condition is in the past perfect tense and the result is in the present conditional. It is used to talk about a hypothetical situation in the past that has a result in the present.

Example:

D. For questions 1-6, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between two and five words, including the word given.

1 Joe needs to eat a big breakfast if he doesn't want to feel tired throughout the morning

UNLESS

Joe feels tired throughout the morning a big breakfast.

2 If we don't remember to turn off the lights, the electricity bill will be expensive

OTHERWISE

Remember to turn off the lights, expensive electricity bill.

3 Sarah has to study hard or she will fail her exams.

LONG

Sarah will pass all her exams hard.

4 You should wait to make any big decisions until you have had time to consider all your options.

PUT

If I were you, I any big decisions until you have had time to consider all your options.

5 Paula has been invited to the party, but she has to work tomorrow, so it is unlikely.

MIGHT

If Donna didn't have to work tomorrow, to the party with you.

6 Lewis had a chance to live in paradise when he was offered a job in Hawaii, but he didn't take it.

IF

Lewis would be living in paradise right now that job offer in Hawaii.

E. Think about a time that you lost something important and the consequences it had. Write a short story about it, using at least one example of each conditional sentence. You can exaggerate or invent details to make it more exciting!

ANSWER KEY

A.

The moral of the story is that unexpected events can lead to positive outcomes, and that it's important to keep an open mind and stay optimistic even when things don't go as planned. In this case, losing his bag seemed like a huge setback for Gary, but it ultimately led to a better opportunity for him.

B.

1. gets
2. will
3. been
4. would
5. it
6. have
7. end
8. had

C.

Zero Conditional: *Every time people come unprepared, the boss gets angry*

First Conditional: *I will fail the presentation and lose my job if I don't do something*

Second Conditional: *If he had a spare set of documents, he would still have a chance*

Third Conditional: *If he hadn't lost his bag, he never would have met this recruiter*

Mixed Conditional: *if things had gone as planned, he wouldn't have this new chance for redemption*

D.

1. unless he eats/has
2. otherwise we will have/get/receive an
3. as long as she studies
4. would put off making
5. she might go
6. if he had taken