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Basics. Conditional Inversion: Had, Were, and Should

Hard | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Auxiliary verb | Conditional sentence | Imperative mood | Infinitive | Inversion | Modal verb | Negation | Subjunctive mood | Verb mood | Passive voice | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Simple tense | Word order

1. Read the top-secret government manual. Select ALL the grammatically correct options to complete this hypothetical rule.

"_____ in your backyard, you would be required to offer them a cup of tea and a biscuit."

Select all that apply.

A) Were aliens to land
B) If aliens were to land
C) If aliens landed
D) Were aliens land
E) Had aliens landed

2. Help the mischievous employee weigh the risks of bringing a pet iguana to the office.

_____ about Sir Scales-a-Lot, I would surely be fired on the spot!

Select one.

A) Was the manager to find out
B) Did the manager find out
C) Were the manager to find out
D) Had the manager to find out

3. Help the temperamental head chef complete his dramatic kitchen instructions by choosing the correct word for each blank.

I am trusting you with my life's work. Honestly, _____ you to reveal the secret sauce recipe to our rivals, I _____ you from this kitchen forever!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) if
B) were
C) should

Blank 2

A) will banish
B) would banish
C) banished

4. Complete the spy director's final warning to the rather clumsy Agent 007.5.

_____ by the evil Dr. Chaos, press the red button on your explosive bowtie immediately.

Select one.

A) If you should corner
B) Were you be cornered
C) Had you been cornered
D) Should you be cornered

5. Complete the senior wizard's rather stern note to his new, accident-prone apprentice. Select the grammatically correct option for each gap.

"_____ accidentally turn the headmaster's cat into a teapot again, please consult chapter four of the manual immediately. Furthermore, _____ my previous warning about the fireball spell, your left eyebrow would still be intact today."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** Should you
- **B)** Had you
- **C)** Were you

Blank 2

- **A)** had you not ignored
- **B)** should you not ignore
- **C)** were you not to ignore

6. Complete the passive-aggressive note left in the staff kitchen. Select ALL the phrases that correctly complete the warning.

"_____ again, please refrain from trying to fix it with a paperclip and sticky tape."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Should the new espresso machine break
- **B)** If the new espresso machine breaks
- **C)** If the new espresso machine should break
- **D)** Should the new espresso machine breaks
- **E)** Breaks the new espresso machine

7. Complete the time traveler's frantic diary entry by choosing the correct phrase for each blank.

The timeline is completely ruined! Furthermore, _____ forgotten my emergency repair manual, I _____ fixed the portal by now.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** hadn't I
- **B)** had I not
- **C)** did I not

Blank 2

- **A)** could
- **B)** could have
- **C)** had

8. Help the time traveler finish his rather frantic incident report. Select ALL the grammatically correct phrases that can complete the sentence.

"_____ the keys to the time machine, the T-Rex wouldn't have eaten our packed lunches."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Had we not lost
- **B)** If we had not lost
- **C)** If we hadn't lost
- **D)** Hadn't we lost
- **E)** Did we not lose

9. Help the detective complete her rather theatrical report on the museum heist by choosing the correct inverted conditional forms.

_____, the sleeping guard would never have noticed him tiptoeing past the dinosaur exhibit. Furthermore, _____ a bit more modern, the museum wouldn't even need to hire human guards in the first place!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** Had the burglar not sneezed
- **B)** Did the burglar not sneeze
- **C)** Has the burglar not sneezed

Blank 2

- **A)** were the alarm system
- **B)** was the alarm system
- **C)** would the alarm system be

10. Complete the polar explorer's dramatic memoir.

_____ the sudden blizzard, we would have safely reached the summit by noon.

Select one.

A) Had it not been for
B) If it were not for
C) Were it not for
D) Had not it been for