Real and unreal conditionals

1. You **won't** get a seat unless you **book** early.
   Can I speak with you, if you**'ve got** a moment?
   If the sun **comes** out, I**'ll** go to the park.
2. How **would** you **feel** if she **lied** to you?
   If I **had** more money, I **could buy** it.
3. I **would have bought** that car if they **had had** it in green.
   If you **had been listening** to me, **you might not have made** a mistake.

1. We use first conditional sentences to talk about possible present or future situations and their results.
   We can use any present tense in the *if-clause* and any form of the future or a modal verb in the other clause.
2. We use second conditional clauses to talk about hypothetical situations in the present or future.
   We use the past tense (simple or continuous) in the *if-clause* and *would (or could/might/may)* + INF in the other clause.
3. We use third conditional sentences to talk about hypothetical situations in the past.
   We use past perfect (simple or continuous) in the *if-clause* and *would have (or could/might/may have)* in the other clause.

Mixed Conditionals

I **wouldn't be living** in Portugal if I **hadn't married** Agostinho.
If Sarah **didn't love** her husband, she **would have divorced** him a long time ago.

- If we need to refer to the present and the past in the same sentence, we mix tenses from two different types of conditional e.g. "I wouldn't be *(second conditional)* so poor if I had saved *(third conditional)* some money when I was working."

Alternatives to *if*

1. I'll lend you the money **so long as/as long as** you promise to pay me back by Friday.
   Provided/providing (that) the weather is good, it should be a great party.
   The client says he will advance the money **on condition (that)** the first phase is completed by June.
2. I'm going to paint my room pink **whether** my mum likes it **or not**.
3. **Even if** he wins this match, he won't reach first place.
4. **Supposing/Suppose** you could travel back in time. Where would you go?
5. **Had I known** he had organized a party, I wouldn't have worked late that afternoon.

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1. We can use as *long as/so long as, provided (that) / provided (that),* and *on condition (that)* instead of *if* to emphasise what must happen in order for something else to happen.
   - That is often omitted in spoken English. On condition that) is considered more appropriate for formal communication.
2. We use *whether* + subject + verb + *or not* instead of *if* in order to emphasise that something is true in either of the two cases.
   - The word order can also be: I'm going to paint my room pink **whether or not** my mum likes it.
3. We use even if to indicate to indicate that a particular fact does not make the rest of your statement untrue.
4. We can use supposing/suppose when asking the listener to imagine that something is true. It is usually used at the beginning of a sentence.
5. In conditionals that include *had* in the *if-clause* we can invert *had* and the subject and leave out *if.*
   e.g. Had I known… = If I had known…

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1. **Right ✔ or wrong ❌ ? Correct the mistakes in the highlighted phrases. Some sentences are correct.**

Example: If you hadn't been there to help me, I don't know what I would do. ❌ …I would have done.
   1. If you hadn't got so angry last night, everything would be fine today.
   2. Tom would be competing this afternoon if he didn't get injured last month.
   3. If I knew the car was stolen, I wouldn't have bought it.
   4. Would you mind if I smoked?
   5. If it hadn't rained that night, the party would be a disaster.
   6. They would get divorced years ago if they didn't have children.
   7. If they hadn't a cat, their flat would be cleaner.
   8. I would apply for the job if I have the qualifications.

2. **Complete the sentence with one word. Do not use *if*.**
   Supposing we lived in another country. Do you think things would be better?
   1. I'll pay you what you ask on _____ you finish the work by Friday.
   2. I'm sure to pass the exam _____ I study hard or not. I know the subject better than anyone.
   3. _____ more people voted, there is no doubt that the election result would have been different.
   4. _____ if I don't get the job, I'll still move to Edinburgh. I can always look for another one.
   5. _____ I known what he was going to do, I would have tried to stop him.

   Answers on next page

Answers

Ex 1.

1. correct ✔   2. ✘ he hadn't got injured (*or* had he not got injured)   3. ✘ If I had known (*or* had I known)

4. ✔ correct   5. ✘ the party would have been   6. ✘ they would have got divorced   7. ✘ if they didn't have*****

8. ✘ if I had (*or* had I the qualifications)

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* Have – auxiliary e.g. (I **have** listened to him)
  Have – to possess e.g. (I **have** a dog)

In the affirmative, these verbs are the same (as above), but in the negative they are different.
Compare:
If I hadn't known, I would have got the question wrong. (~~If I didn't have known~~)
If I didn't have a dog, I wouldn't get so much exercise. (~~if I hadn't a dog~~)

Ex 2.

1. condition   2. whether   3. Had   4. Even   5. Had