



Inversion 1

Grammar > Advanced 8



Exercise 1 – Learning

In this lesson: **Inversion in Conditional Sentences**

We have learned to form conditionals using the word '**if**'. In formal contexts, it is possible to form **conditional statements** by using inversions instead of '**if**'.

Were you to...

In sentences with '**if [subject] were to...**', remove the '**if**' and move '**were**' to the front.

If you were to come tonight, I would be very happy. → **Were you** to come tonight, I would be very happy.

Had you...

In sentences with '**if [subject] had...**', remove the '**if**' and move '**had**' to the front.

If I had known he would lie to me, I wouldn't have trusted him. → **Had I known** that he would lie to me, I wouldn't have trusted him.



Should you...

In sentences with '**if [subject] should...**', remove the '**if**' and move '**should**' to the front.

If they should go to the party, they would have a good time. → **Should they go** to the party, they would have a good time.

Tip: The '**should**' here is not the same '**should**' as in '**You should wake up**'. It is a formal way to show that a situation is possible.



Exercise 2 – Rephrasing

Rephrase the following sentences by using inversion.

Example: If you should get hired, you will be very happy at this company. → Should you get hired, you will be very happy at this company.

Content:

1. If they worked harder, they would be paid more.
2. If they had bought a new computer, they could have played this game.
3. If you had taken swimming lessons, you would know how to swim.
4. If they should arrive earlier, tell them to wait for me outside.
5. If you need more information, call our office.
6. If she had been more cautious, she wouldn't have had to buy a new phone.
7. If I had known about her behavior, I would have fired her already.
8. If it were not for my father, I would not have gone to university.



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: bring an umbrella, not get wet. → Had you brought an umbrella, you wouldn't have gotten wet.

Content:

1. wear a coat, not be cold.
2. put on sunscreen, not be burnt.
3. feed your goldfish, not be dead.
4. pay the water bill, take a shower.
5. buy a new car, not have money.
6. not be careful, fall down the stairs.