



4. Of all the stuff she bought yesterday, I like the books \_\_\_\_\_ she got from the library. I started reading one of them and the story is really thrilling.
- A. those                                      B. whom
- C. whose                                     D. ✓ which

**Answer: D**

The blank starts a relative clause that describes "the books", and books are things, not people.

"Which" (or "that") is the relative pronoun for things: "the books which she got from the library".

"Whom" and "whose" point to people, and "those" is a demonstrative word, so it cannot join the two clauses.

**Rule:** Use who or whom for people and which or that for things when a relative clause describes a noun.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 6, section 6E.1 Relative Pronouns.

5. Our office wants to employ secretaries on a contractual basis about with a possible extension. The salary and other benefits are amazingly at inactive. I encourage you to apply if you \_\_\_\_\_ neatly type at least 60 words per minute.
- A. may                                      B. would  
C. ✓ can                                    D. will

**Answer: C**

The blank is about a skill the applicant already has, so the sentence needs a modal of ability.

"Can" carries that meaning: "if you can neatly type at least 60 words per minute".

"May" would talk about permission or possibility, "will" about the future, and "would" about an imagined situation, so none of them describes a typing skill.

**Rule:** Use "can" or "be able to" for present ability.

6. Conflicts \_\_\_\_\_ take place between the pastoralists and farmers in this area every time the dry season comes. The government has to find a means of solving shortage of water which is the main cause of the problem.
- A. will                                      B. shall  
C. ✓ may                                  D. would

**Answer: C**

"May" plus a base verb says that something is possible. Here the conflict is a real risk whenever the dry season arrives, which is why the government must act on the water shortage.

"Shall" is used for offers and suggestions with I and we, and "would" needs a past or imaginary frame, so neither fits this general statement.

**Rule:** may + base verb means it is possible that this happens.

Note: "will" is also used for events that repeat in a predictable way, so choice A can be defended here too.

7. I am taking my own bed sheets with me \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel doesn't provide clean ones. It is always good to be careful.
- A. ✓ **in case**
- B. if perhaps
- C. if
- D. just since

**Answer: A**

The speaker packs the sheets first because the hotel might not have clean ones. That is a precaution, and English marks a precaution with "in case".

"If" changes the meaning: "I will take sheets if the hotel doesn't provide clean ones" says you act only after you find out. Here the action comes first.

"If perhaps" and "just since" are not used in this pattern.

**Rule:** Use "in case" plus a present-tense verb for something you do now to be ready for a possible problem later.

- 8.** I believe you and there may not be any mosquitoes at this time of the year. But \_\_\_\_\_ it is always good to be  
the safe side? So, get the rooms sprayed with insecticides?
- A. ✓ **isn't it true**
- B. can I just say that
- C. may I agree
- D. can I disagree

**Answer: A**

The speaker accepts the other person's point and then pushes back politely, so the blank needs a question that defends being careful.

"But isn't it true it is always good to be on the safe side?" is a polite rhetorical question, and it leads straight into the advice about spraying the rooms.

"Can I disagree" fails twice: you disagree with someone or about something, and the words after the blank state the speaker's own view, not a view being rejected. "May I agree" signals agreement, which the word "But" rules out, and "can I just say that" asks permission to speak although the speaker is already speaking.

**Rule:** A negative question such as "Isn't it true that...?" is a polite way of insisting on your point.

9. I can see you are not very happy these days. \_\_\_\_\_ What is bothering you? (1)
- A. ✓ **Would you mind telling me**
- B. Honestly, I want to know
- C. What is the problem
- D. It could happen but is it serious

**Answer: A**

The speaker wants to ask about a private matter, so a polite opening is needed.

"Would you mind telling me" softens the request; the pattern is Would you mind + verb + ing.

"Honestly, I want to know" and "What is the problem" are blunt with someone who is already unhappy, and "It could happen but is it serious" does not connect with the question that follows.

**Rule:** Would you mind + verb-ing is a polite way to ask someone to do something.

10. I appreciate what you said about the root causes of the problem and how we can possibly solve it. But for our record, \_\_\_\_\_ (1)
- A. ✓ **could you tell us your name and where you come from?**
- B. where do you come from and your name, please?
- C. what is your name and where you come from?
- D. are you willing to tell us what's your name and your address?

**Answer: A**

When a question is placed inside another sentence, the inside part keeps statement order: subject first, then verb.

Choice A does that: "Could you tell us your name and where you come from?" Notice "you come", not "do you come".

D keeps question order inside the report, "what's your name", where correct English needs "what your name is". C mixes a direct question with an indirect one, and B is not parallel either.

**Rule:** In an indirect question, use statement word order and drop the auxiliary do, does or did.

11. We were all busy reading the fiction our teacher asked us to read when we \_\_\_\_\_ a huge explosion that seemed to be from upstairs. Many of us fell on the floor and it was as if we were all dead.
- A. hear                                      B. were hearing
- C. ✓ heard                                D. would hear

**Answer: C**

Two past actions meet here. The long action, "were reading", was already going on, and a short action cut into it.

The short, interrupting action takes the simple past: "when we heard a huge explosion".

"Were hearing" is wrong because "hear" describes perception and is not normally used in the continuous, and "hear" alone is present tense, which clashes with the past frame.

**Rule:** Past continuous for the longer action, simple past for the shorter action that interrupts it.

12. The area was ragged and mountainous \_\_\_\_\_, its weather was so harsh that we could hardly move around and see places. (1)
- A. Even then  
B. All along  
C. However  
D. ✓ In addition

**Answer:** D

Both parts of the sentence give a reason why moving around was hard: the land was rugged and the weather was harsh.

"In addition" joins a second point of the same kind.

"However" would signal a contrast, but nothing here goes against the first idea. "Even then" and "All along" talk about time, not about adding information.

**Rule:** Use "In addition" to add a point that supports the same idea, and "However" only when the second idea goes against the first.

13. The school \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of job this year. This was mainly because every member of the school community was cooperative in supporting the administration. (1)
- A. ✓ has done  
B. had done  
C. does  
D. is doing

**Answer:** A

"This year" is a period that has not finished yet, so the sentence links past work to the present moment.

The present perfect, has + past participle, does that: "The school has done a lot of work this year."

"Had done" needs an earlier past point to compare with, "does" states a habit, and "is doing" describes work in progress right now rather than the whole year's total.

**Rule:** Use the present perfect with time periods that are still open, such as today, this week and this year.

14. Tensions between the two countries seem to \_\_\_\_\_ from time to time but they would never fight. This has become a tradition and would only remain a war of words. (1)
- A. ✓ heighten  
B. regenerate  
C. improve  
D. worsen

**Answer:** A

"Heighten" means to become greater or stronger, and it is the usual partner of the noun "tensions": tensions rise, mount or heighten.

That meaning fits, because the next line says the two countries keep to a war of words instead of fighting.

"Improve" says the opposite, and "regenerate" means to grow again after damage, which does not describe tension.

**Rule:** Learn nouns together with the verbs they normally take: tension heightens, prices rise, a situation worsens.

15. It is sad that COVID-19 has already caused a lot of damage to many countries of the world. \_\_\_\_\_, due to the vaccines administered all over the world, there are signs that the rate of infection is declining. (1)
- A. But  
B. ✓ However  
C. Surprisingly  
D. On the contrary

**Answer:** B

The sentence turns from bad news, a lot of damage, to good news, falling infection, so a contrast linker is needed at the start.

"However" is the linker that opens a new sentence and takes a comma after it: "However, due to the vaccines..., there are signs that the rate of infection is declining."

"But" joins clauses inside one sentence and is not normally followed by a comma. "On the contrary" denies what was just said, but the damage is not denied. "Surprisingly" does not fit either, because the fall is explained by the vaccines, so it is expected news.

**Rule:** "However," begins a sentence that contrasts with the one before it.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 1, section 1E.1 Comparing and Contrasting Devices.

16. Have you heard that the police arrested Mr. Gwangu, was our school Director? He may have involved in some corruption. (1)
- A. ✓ who  
B. that  
C. whom  
D. which

**Answer:** A

The clause after the comma gives extra information about a person, Mr. Gwangu, and that person is the subject of "was our school Director".

For a person in subject position we use "who": "Mr. Gwangu, who was our school Director".

"That" is never used in a non-defining clause, the kind set off by a comma. "Which" is for things and "whom" is for the object of the clause.

**Rule:** In a non-defining relative clause after a comma, use who for people and which for things, never that.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 6, section 6E.1 Relative Pronouns.

17. Everything was in a mess \_\_\_\_\_ I arrived It was not even possible to find out what had happened because she never came back. (1)
- A. ✓ when  
B. while  
C. after  
D. since

**Answer:** A

"I arrived" is one short, finished action, a point in time, and the mess was already there at that point.

"When" introduces such a point: "Everything was in a mess when I arrived."

"While" needs an action in progress, so it would ask for "while I was arriving". "After" and "since" would place the mess later than the arrival, which the rest of the sentence does not support.

**Rule:** when + simple past for a point in time; while + past continuous for an action in progress.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 4, section 4E.1 Adverbial Clauses of Time.

18. If she \_\_\_\_\_ persistent dry cough and fever, I would have called 8335 but that wasn't the case. It just looked like an ordinary flu. (1)
- A. has had  
B. ✓ **had had**  
C. did have  
D. would have

**Answer: B**

The main clause is "I would have called 8335", which is the third conditional, used for a past situation that did not happen. That pattern needs the past perfect in the if-clause: "If she had had persistent dry cough and fever, I would have called 8335."

"Did have" belongs to the second conditional and "has had" points to present time, so both break the tense balance with "would have called".

**Rule:** If + had + past participle, would have + past participle for an unreal past.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 3, section 3E.1 Tense Balance in Conditional Sentences.

19. We \_\_\_\_\_ in the same office since 2010 but she has never acted like that before. She must have got out of bed on the wrong side. (1)
- A. work  
B. are working  
C. worked  
D. ✓ **have worked**

**Answer: D**

"Since 2010" marks a starting point, and the shared work continues today.

English uses the present perfect for that: "We have worked in the same office since 2010."

"Worked" would close the action in the past, and "work" or "are working" cannot reach back to 2010.

**Rule:** since + a point in time goes with the present perfect, not with the simple past or the present.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 4, section 4E.1 Adverbial Clauses of Time.

20. My son scored A's in all the courses he took this semester. I am really \_\_\_\_\_ him. (1)
- A. ✓ **proud of**  
B. famous of  
C. keen on  
D. satisfied by

**Answer: A**

"Proud of" is the fixed pairing for the pleasure you feel at someone's success: "I am really proud of him."

"Famous of" is wrong, because the phrase is "famous for". "Keen on" means very interested in an activity, and "satisfied by" is both the wrong preposition, we say satisfied with, and too weak for straight A grades.

**Rule:** Learn adjectives together with their prepositions: proud of, famous for, keen on, good at.

21. I would be happy if we can meet this afternoon but \_\_\_\_\_ it is going to rain. If it doesn't, come to Eliana at 3:30. (1)
- A. I am sure  
B. it is as though  
C. very unlikely  
D. ✓ **it looks as if**

**Answer: D**

The speaker is reading the sky and making a guess, not stating a fact.

"It looks as if" introduces that guess: "but it looks as if it is going to rain".

"I am sure" claims certainty, which the next sentence, "If it doesn't", takes back. "Very unlikely" has no verb to stand on, and "it is as though" is used for comparisons with an unreal situation.

**Rule:** Use "It looks as if..." for a guess based on what you can see.

22. Are those two girls from the same family? They look alike and \_\_\_\_\_ I see them together, even in odd kind of places. (1)

A. hardly do

B. ✓ **most of the time**

C. some of the time

D. infrequently

**Answer:** B

The speaker suspects the two girls are related, and the evidence is that they are usually seen together.

"Most of the time" gives that high frequency: "most of the time I see them together, even in odd kind of places".

"Hardly do" and "infrequently" say the opposite, and "some of the time" is too weak to support the guess about one family.

**Rule:** Pick the frequency phrase that agrees with the evidence in the rest of the sentence.

23. I haven't started my homework yet but I \_\_\_\_\_ it by 4 in the afternoon. Submission time is 4 :15 p.m. (1)

A. will done

B. am going to do

C. ✓ **will have done**

D. would have done

**Answer:** C

"By 4 in the afternoon" is a deadline in the future, and the homework will be finished before that moment.

The future perfect states it: "I will have done it by 4 in the afternoon."

"Am going to do" only announces a plan and says nothing about finishing before the deadline, "will done" is not a verb form at all, and "would have done" belongs to an unreal past.

**Rule:** will have + past participle for an action completed before a future point, often signalled by "by".

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 4, section 4E.1 Adverbial Clauses of Time.

24. Despite their longtime friendship. Biftu and Tola are not in good terms. \_\_\_\_\_ they had a problem and now they have broken up. I don't know what had happened. (1)

A. In addition

B. ✓ **However, as I understand**

C. Anyway, as I was saying

D. Unfortunate it is

**Answer:** B

The second sentence passes on what the speaker has heard about the two friends, and the last sentence admits that the details are unknown.

"However, as I understand" fits both parts: it marks the report as second-hand, which agrees with "I don't know what had happened".

"In addition" is wrong because nothing new is added; the sentence explains why the friends are not on good terms.

"Anyway, as I was saying" needs an earlier interruption to return from, and "Unfortunate it is" is not natural English.

**Rule:** "As I understand" tells your listener that the information is second-hand, not something you saw yourself.

25. I am trying to move to Australia to live with my elder brother. I hope my life \_\_\_\_\_ be different there. (1)

A. ✓ **will**

B. would

C. might

D. is going to

**Answer:** A

"Hope" looks forward, and the usual future form after hope is "will".

"I hope my life will be different there" states an expectation about the future.

"Would" needs an unreal or past frame, "might" turns the hope into doubt, and "is going to" points to evidence you can already see, which does not match something you are only hoping for.

**Rule:** hope + will + base verb for something you expect in the future.



26. We all contributed what is within our reach \_\_\_\_\_ help the children in our school. We bought them stationery they needed for the whole year. (1)

- A. so that to  
B. ✓ so as to  
C. because to  
D. because of to

**Answer: B**

The blank explains why people contributed, so it needs a purpose marker before the verb "help".

"So as to" plus a base verb states purpose: "We all contributed ... so as to help the children."

"So that" is the tempting one, but it takes a full clause with its own subject and modal, "so that we could help", never "to".

"Because" and "because of" give a reason and cannot be followed by "to".

**Rule:** to, so as to and in order to are followed by a base verb and express purpose.

27. I can see your point of argument but \_\_\_\_\_ honest when it comes to denouncing corruption. One officials are caught red-handed by the police a fortnight ago. (1)

- A. I don't doubt that  
B. ✓ I am not convinced that  
C. everybody says that  
D. it is unacceptable

**Answer: B**

A few words are missing from the printed sentence; read it as "but I am not convinced that they are honest when it comes to denouncing corruption".

The next sentence, about officials caught red-handed, is evidence against honesty, so the speaker is expressing doubt.

"I am not convinced that" is the polite way to disagree while still respecting the other person's argument, which the word "but" prepares. "I don't doubt that" says the opposite, and "everybody says that" reports a shared belief instead of the speaker's own doubt.

**Rule:** "I am not convinced that..." is a polite formula for disagreeing with a claim.

28. I know one thing for sure. \_\_\_\_\_ hand in hand and worked fir the unity of the country. If everyone goes his way, we get smaller al waker for the enemy to engulf us. (1)

- A. We should stand together  
B. Ldevarybody join  
C. Everybody joined  
D. ✓ It is time we joined

**Answer: D**

"It is time" is followed by a subject and a past-tense verb when we say that something should be happening already.

"It is time we joined hand in hand" fits, and "joined" also matches the second verb in the sentence, "worked".

"We should stand together" would leave "and worked" without a matching verb form, and "Everybody joined" would report a finished past event instead of calling people to act now.

**Rule:** It is time + subject + past simple for something that should happen now.



29. The fund raising project in our kebele has been more successful than ever before. An insider told me they \_\_\_\_\_ raise 10 million birr in six months. (1)
- A. are able to  
B. ✓ were able to  
C. may be able to  
D. would be able to

**Answer: B**

The reporting verb is "told", which is past, so the verb inside the report moves back in time as well.

"An insider told me they were able to raise 10 million birr in six months" reports a real achievement, and "were able to" means they managed to do it on that occasion.

"Are able to" keeps a present form after a past reporting verb, which breaks the backshift rule, and the opening sentence, "has been more successful than ever before", shows the money was already raised, so "would be able to" does not fit either.

**Rule:** After a past reporting verb, present forms move back to past forms; was or were able to means managed to do something on one occasion.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 7, section 7E.1 Direct and Indirect Speech.

30. We do not understand why he always comes so late. If he arrives on time like his friends, he \_\_\_\_\_ the opportunity to meet us and get the necessary assistance. (1)
- A. ought to have  
B. would have  
C. ✓ will have  
D. may be having

**Answer: C**

The if-clause uses a present verb, "arrives", and the situation is a real possibility, so this is the first conditional.

The main clause then takes will plus a base verb: "he will have the opportunity to meet us".

"Would have" belongs to the third conditional and would need "If he had arrived", so it breaks the tense balance. "Ought to have" and "may be having" do not follow a first-conditional if-clause.

**Rule:** If + present simple, will + base verb for something that is likely to happen.

**Textbook:** Grade 12 English, Unit 3, section 3E.1 Tense Balance in Conditional Sentences.

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