Advanced Conditionals Worksheet: But For, If Anything, If So

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
if anything: indeed, it's the opposite	He isn't lazy. If anything, he works too hard.
if so / if not / if need be / if necessary	Is it ready? If so, send it. If not, tell me.
if only to / if only for: at least for this reason	Come, if only for an hour.
Implied conditions: given, assuming, supposing, with, without, otherwise	Assuming the weather holds, we'll sail tomorrow.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
If anything happens, he is more tired now. (meaning: rather)	If anything, he is more tired now.
If need, we can stay later.	If need be, we can stay later.
Assuming that the train will be on time, we'll arrive at six.	Assuming (that) the train is on time, we'll arrive at six.

1. Complete

Complete with if anything, if so, if not, if need be, if only, but for, assuming or otherwise.

1. The changes didn't help. _____, things are worse.
2. Are you free tonight? _____, let's have dinner.
3. Please confirm by Friday; _____, we'll give your place to someone else.
4. We can work at the weekend, _____.
5. _____ the goalkeeper, we would have lost 5–0.
6. Is the shop open? _____, we'll go tomorrow.
7. Do try it, _____ to see what it's like.
8. _____ we leave at six, we'll be there for lunch.

2. Choose

Circle the best option.

1. The film wasn't too long. (If anything / If so), it was too short.
2. (Given / Unless) the circumstances, she did very well.
3. (Without / Unless) your help, I couldn't have done it.
4. Call me if you're late. (If not / Otherwise), I'll worry.
5. (Supposing / Provided if) you lost your job, what would you do?
6. Go to the party, if only (to say / for say) hello.
7. (If necessary / If need), we'll hire extra staff.
8. Is it serious? (If so / If anything), we need a doctor.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. If need is, I'll drive you.
2. But for you helped, we would have failed.
3. Is he coming? If yes, I'll cook more.
4. Given that the bad weather, the event was cancelled.
5. Leave now, otherwise you will have missed the bus.
6. Come, if only for say goodbye.

Writing

Write a short message to a team about a project at risk (6–7 sentences). Use at least five expressions from this sheet.

Speaking

- Has your city got better or worse in the last five years? Use 'If anything…'
- What would you do, if need be, to keep your job?
- Who would you not be where you are today but for?
- Supposing you could live anywhere, where would it be?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 If anything · 2 If so · 3 otherwise · 4 if need be · 5 But for · 6 If not · 7 if only · 8 Assuming

2. Choose: 1 If anything · 2 Given · 3 Without · 4 Otherwise · 5 Supposing · 6 to say · 7 If necessary · 8 If so

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 If need be, I'll drive you. · 2 But for your help, we would have failed. · 3 Is he coming? If so, I'll cook more. · 4 Given the bad weather, the event was cancelled. · 5 Leave now, otherwise you'll miss the bus. · 6 Come, if only to say goodbye.

Writing, model answer: Hi all, a quick update on the website launch. Assuming the designers deliver on Monday, we can still launch on the 15th. If not, we'll need to move the date. But for Ana's extra work last week, we would already be behind. If need be, I can ask for two more developers. The budget isn't a problem; if anything, we've spent less than planned. Please send me your updates by Friday, if only to confirm that nothing has changed.