Inverted Conditionals Worksheet: Had I Known, Should You

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Had + subject + participle (third conditional)	Had I known, I would have told you.
Should + subject + verb (first conditional, formal / unlikely)	Should you need help, call this number.
Were + subject + to + verb / Were + subject + adjective (second)	Were she to resign, who would replace her?
Were it not for / Had it not been for · But for + noun	Had it not been for the rain, we would have won.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
If had I known, I would have come.	Had I known, I would have come.
Hadn't I missed the bus, I would have arrived on time.	Had I not missed the bus, I would have arrived on time.
Should you will need help, call me.	Should you need help, call me.

1. Rewrite

Rewrite each sentence as an inverted conditional, starting with the word given.

1. If I had known the truth, I would have acted differently. → Had _____

2. If you need any further information, please contact us. → Should _____

3. If it weren't for my sister, I'd be lost. → Were _____

4. If the government raised taxes, there would be protests. → Were _____

5. If we hadn't left early, we would have missed the flight. → Had _____

6. If it hadn't been for his advice, I would have failed. → But for _____

7. If the item arrives damaged, return it within 14 days. → Should _____

8. If I were in your position, I would apologise. → Were _____

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. (Had / If had) she called, I would have answered.
2. Should you (decide / decided) to accept, let us know.
3. (Were / Was) I rich, I would travel the world.
4. Had it not (been / be) for the doctor, he would have died.
5. (Had I not / Hadn't I) seen it myself, I wouldn't have believed it.
6. Were they (to offer / offering) me the job, I'd take it.
7. (But for / Without for) your help, we couldn't have done it.
8. Leave now; (otherwise / unless) you'll miss the train.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. Had I knew, I would have helped.
2. Should you needed anything, ask.
3. Were it not the traffic, we'd be there by now.
4. Hadn't he lied, we would trust him.
5. If were I you, I'd go.
6. But for she helped me, I'd have failed.

Writing

Write a formal email (6 sentences) to a hotel guest confirming a booking. Include at least three inverted conditionals.

Speaking

- Had you known what you know now, what would you have studied?
- Were you to change one law in your country, which would it be?
- Who would you be today were it not for a particular person?
- Should you win a large amount of money, what is the first thing you would do?

Answer key

1. Rewrite: 1 Had I known the truth, I would have acted differently. · 2 Should you need any further information, please contact us. · 3 Were it not for my sister, I'd be lost. · 4 Were the government to raise taxes, there would be protests. · 5 Had we not left early, we would have missed the flight. · 6 But for his advice, I would have failed. · 7 Should the item arrive damaged, return it within 14 days. · 8 Were I in your position, I would apologise.

2. Choose: 1 Had · 2 decide · 3 Were · 4 been · 5 Had I not · 6 to offer · 7 But for · 8 otherwise

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 Had I known, I would have helped. · 2 Should you need anything, ask. · 3 Were it not for the traffic, we'd be there by now. · 4 Had he not lied, we would trust him. · 5 Were I you, I'd go. · 6 But for her help, I'd have failed.

Writing, model answer: Dear Ms Turner, thank you for booking a double room with us from 12 to 15 May. Should you wish to arrive before 2 p.m., please let us know in advance. Were you to require an airport transfer, we would be happy to arrange one. Should you need to cancel, please do so 48 hours before arrival. Had you booked directly through our website, breakfast would have been included, so we have added it free of charge. We look forward to welcoming you.