CONDITIONAL CLAUSES

CEFR Level C1 — Advanced

English Language Worksheets | 4 Worksheets + Answer Key

Worksheet 1: Advanced Conditional Structures

At C1, the basic conditionals are assumed. Focus: inversion, mixing, subtlety.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

Key structures at C1

Structure	Function & Notes	Example
inverted conditionals	Drop ‘if’; formal (Had / Were / Should)	“Had the market not collapsed, the firm would have survived.”
mixed conditionals	Condition and result in different times	“If she had accepted, she would be a partner now.”
‘were to’ / ‘should’	Tentative or hypothetical future	“Were the ban to pass, exports would halt.”
implied / elliptical	The if-clause is left unstated	“A wiser leader would have resigned.” (= if they were wiser)
‘but for’ / ‘otherwise’	Compact conditional meaning	“But for the rain, the event would have sold out.”
‘if’ of concession / politeness	‘even if’, ‘if I may’, ‘if anything’	“If anything, the delay helped us.”

PART A — **Complete the sentences**

Fill in each gap with an appropriate word or phrase. More than one answer may be possible.

1. _____ the funding been approved, the lab would still be open today.
2. _____ for his intervention, the deal would have collapsed.
3. A more cautious investor _____ have avoided the loss entirely.
4. _____ the regulator to intervene, the merger would be blocked.
5. _____ you require any clarification, do not hesitate to contact us.
6. If she _____ taken the earlier flight, she would be in the meeting now.
7. The scheme is flawed; _____, it may still do more good than harm.
8. _____ anything, the criticism has strengthened their resolve.

PART B — **Error analysis**

Identify and correct the error in each sentence. Then note the rule violated.

1 “If I would have known, I would have told you.”
Correction: _____
Rule: _____

2 “Were I knew the answer, I would say.”
Correction: _____
Rule: _____

3 “If he had studied harder, he would be tired now.” (illogical mix)
Correction: _____
Rule: _____

4 “But for you would have helped, we failed.”
Correction: _____
Rule: _____

Score: _____ / 20

Worksheet 2: Register, Modality & Nuance

Conditionals carry probability, distance and politeness.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — The register & modality spectrum

The modal in the result clause shifts certainty and tone. Study the tables.

Result modal	Effect	Example
would	the default hypothetical result	If asked, she would agree.
might / could	a possible, less certain result	If asked, she might agree.
would have to	obligation under the condition	If asked, she would have to agree.
should / ought to	advisability	If asked, she should agree.

Connector	Nuance
provided / providing (that)	a firm stipulation the speaker cares about
on condition that	formal; often a contractual requirement
as / so long as	condition + duration; slightly more conversational
given (that)	a reason treated as an accepted premise, not a condition
assuming (that)	a condition taken as likely for the sake of argument

PART B — Register & modality transformation

Rewrite each sentence following the instruction, changing only what is needed.

1 If you invest now, you will double your money. *(make it tentative/less certain)*
→ _____

2 If the tenant pays the deposit, they may move in. *(formal: 'on condition that')*
→ _____

3 If we assume demand stays high, prices will rise. *(open with 'Assuming that')*
→ _____

4 If you don't back up your files, you could lose them. *(rewrite with 'unless')*
→ _____

PART C — Verdicts

Decide whether each use is (a) standard, (b) acceptable but marked/stylistic, or (c) a genuine error. Justify in one sentence.

1 "Should you have any questions, please ask."
Verdict: (a)/(b)/(c) Justification: _____

2 "If I would be you, I'd wait."
Verdict: (a)/(b)/(c) Justification: _____

3	“Given that funds are tight, we should economise.” Verdict: (a)/(b)/(c) Justification: _____
4	“Were it not for the delay, we'd be finished.” Verdict: (a)/(b)/(c) Justification: _____
5	“Unless you would try, you'll never know.” Verdict: (a)/(b)/(c) Justification: _____

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Academic Writing & Critical Analysis

How conditionals frame argument, caution and counterfactual reasoning.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Analytical reading**

> *Counterfactual reasoning is the historian's most seductive tool and most treacherous trap. Had a single archduke's driver not taken a wrong turn, the argument runs, the twentieth century might have unfolded quite differently. Such claims are not worthless; provided they are disciplined by evidence, they clarify which causes truly mattered. Yet they tempt us into a fallacy: if we assume that removing one cause would have removed the outcome, we ignore the many other pressures that would still have been in play. Were history so fragile, it would be unintelligible. The more confidently a writer declares what would have happened, the more sceptical the careful reader should become; for if everything hinges on contingency, then nothing can be explained at all.*

1. Identify FIVE conditional structures and classify each (3rd, mixed, inverted, 'provided', 'assuming', implied, etc.).

_____

_____

_____

2. Explain the effect of the inverted 'Were history so fragile, it would be unintelligible.'

_____

_____

3. Paraphrase the final 'if everything hinges on contingency, then nothing can be explained'.

_____

_____

4. What does 'provided they are disciplined by evidence' add that 'if' alone would not?

_____

_____

PART B — **Sentence transformation**

Rewrite each sentence according to the instruction. Preserve the meaning.

1. Original: "The treaty was signed, and only then did the fighting stop."
   Task: rewrite as a counterfactual (3rd conditional).
   → _____

2. Original: "She isn't a member, so she can't vote."
   Task: rewrite as a mixed/second conditional.
   → _____

3. Original: "Without the subsidy, the industry would collapse."
   Task: rewrite using 'Were it not for'.
   → _____

4. Original: "If the data had been public, the fraud would have been spotted."
   Task: rewrite with inversion.
   → _____

5 Original: “The policy will work only if enforcement is consistent.”
Task: rewrite using ‘provided that’.
→ _____

PART C — Guided essay paragraph

Write a paragraph of 120–150 words arguing ONE position below. Include at least FOUR distinct conditional structures from Worksheets 1–2; keep the register formal-academic.

Position A: Counterfactual ‘what if’ reasoning enriches our understanding of history.
Position B: Counterfactual history is speculation dressed up as analysis.

My position: ___ A ___ B

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Word count: _____

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Synthesis, Data Interpretation & Argumentation

Use conditional reasoning to interpret evidence and rebut claims.

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: _____

PART A — **Interpreting complex data**

Study the table modelling five policy scenarios for a city's transport budget.

Scenario	Cost (€m)	CO■ cut (%)	Jobs (000s)	Public support (%)
A: road widening	420	-3	6	38
B: metro extension	1,100	22	14	61
C: cycle network	180	9	3	54
D: bus electrification	560	17	5	67
E: congestion charge	40	13	1	29

Write six analytical sentences using the data. Apply the constraints below.

1. [Use a second conditional to model one scenario's effect.]

_____

_____

2. [Use a mixed conditional to link a past choice to a present state.]

_____

_____

3. [Use an inverted conditional (Were / Had / Should).]

_____

_____

4. [Use 'provided that' or 'as long as' to attach a stipulation.]

_____

_____

5. [Use 'but for' or 'were it not for'.]

_____

_____

6. [Acknowledge a limitation of the modelling ('assuming that …' / 'insofar as …').]

_____

_____

PART B — **Adversarial comparison (debate format)**

Write a two-sentence counter-argument that concedes part of each claim but challenges it from another angle. Use formal register and at least one conditional structure per response.

1. Claim: "Scenario B is clearly best: if the city wants real emissions cuts, only the metro delivers them."

Hint: consider the cost and support figures.

Counter-argument:

_____

2. Claim: “The congestion charge is the smart choice, since it cuts CO■ at almost no cost.”
Hint: consider public support and jobs.

Counter-argument:

3. Claim: “Had the city built cycle lanes years ago, congestion would be solved by now.”
Hint: consider the modest CO■ and jobs figures for C.

Counter-argument:

PART C — Extended writing task

Write a discursive essay introduction (180–220 words) on the proposition below. Use at least FIVE distinct conditional structures from this unit (underline them). Maintain a formal-academic register; present the proposition, acknowledge its complexity, and signal your line of argument.

“If a city had to choose one transport policy, it should prioritise emissions over convenience.”

Word count: _____ Structures underlined: _____ / 5

Score: _____ / 35

ANSWER KEY & TEACHER NOTES

For teacher use only — C1 Level Worksheets

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Worksheet 1 – Gap Fill

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
1	___ the funding been approved	**Had (inverted third conditional)**
2	___ for his intervention	**But ('but for' = if it were not for)**
3	A more cautious investor ___ have avoided	**would (implied conditional)**
4	___ the regulator to intervene	**Were ('were … to', inverted)**
5	___ you require any clarification	**Should (inverted first conditional)**
6	If she ___ taken the earlier flight	**had (mixed: past → present)**
7	the scheme is flawed; ___	**that said / even so / nonetheless**
8	___ anything, the criticism has strengthened	**If ('if anything')**

Worksheet 1 – Error Analysis

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
1	If I would have known	**If I had known, I would have told you. (no 'would' in the if-clause)**
2	Were I knew	**Were I to know / If I knew the answer, I would say. ('were' takes 'to' + infinitive, not a past verb)**
3	would be tired now	**… he would have passed / would be qualified now — the result must follow logically from studying**
4	But for you would have helped	**But for your help, we would have failed. ('but for' + noun, not a clause)**

Worksheet 2 – Parts B & C

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
B1	tentative	**If you invested now, you might / could double your money.**
B2	on condition that	**The tenant may move in on condition that they pay the deposit.**
B3	Assuming that	**Assuming that demand stays high, prices will rise.**
B4	unless	**Unless you back up your files, you could lose them.**
C1	Should you have …	**(a) Standard inverted first conditional**
C2	If I would be you	**(c) Error — no 'would' in the if-clause: 'If I were you'**
C3	Given that …	**(a) Standard — 'given that' states an accepted premise**
C4	Were it not for …	**(a) Standard formal conditional**
C5	Unless you would try	**(c) Error — no 'would' after 'unless': 'Unless you try'**

Worksheet 3 – Part A (Passage Analysis)

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
Q1	Five structures + types	**‘Had a single archduke's driver not taken a wrong turn, … might have unfolded’ (inverted 3rd); ‘provided they are disciplined by evidence’ (condition/stipulation); ‘if we assume that removing one cause would have removed the outcome’ (embedded 3rd); ‘Were history so fragile, it would be …’ (inverted 2nd); ‘if everything hinges on contingency, then nothing can be explained’ (open/zero-type)**
Q2	Were history so fragile …	**The inversion is compact and formal; it frames an absurd hypothetical to expose it — if history really were that fragile, it could not be understood, so it cannot be that fragile.**
Q3	final clause paraphrase	**If every outcome depends on chance alone, then no genuine causal explanation of any event is possible.**
Q4	provided vs if	**‘Provided’ adds a firm stipulation the writer insists on (the claims are acceptable only on this strict condition), which plain ‘if’ states more neutrally.**

Worksheet 3 – Part B (Transformations)

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
1	counterfactual 3rd	**If the treaty had not been signed, the fighting would not have stopped.**
2	mixed / 2nd	**If she were a member, she could vote.**
3	Were it not for	**Were it not for the subsidy, the industry would collapse.**
4	inversion	**Had the data been public, the fraud would have been spotted.**
5	provided that	**The policy will work provided that enforcement is consistent.**

Worksheets 3–4: Extended & Creative Tasks — Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
Structural range	Uses 4–5 distinct conditional structures accurately	0–4
Register	Consistently formal-academic; modality well judged	0–3
Argumentation	Clear line of argument; conditionals serve the reasoning	0–3
Accuracy	No errors in inversion, tense sequence, or mixing	0–2
Coherence	Ideas logically sequenced; conditions clearly signposted	0–3

Worksheet 4 – Part A (Model sentences)

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
1	2nd conditional	**If the city built the metro extension, emissions would fall by over a fifth.**
2	mixed conditional	**If the council had electrified the buses earlier, the city would already be cleaner now.**
3	inverted	**Were a congestion charge introduced, costs would stay remarkably low.**
4	provided that	**The cycle network delivers value, provided that uptake is high enough to matter.**

#	Question / Item	Answer / Guidance
5	but for	**But for its enormous price tag, the metro would be the obvious choice.**
6	limitation	**Assuming that the support figures are reliable, Scenario D balances impact and popularity best.**