

If etc

Task 1. Are these sentences grammatically correct? If not, correct them.

- a. If you're not careful, you're going to hurt yourself.
- b. If you're going to make trouble, we'll call the police.
- c. If you've finished, then we'll go.
- d. If I've told you once I've told you a hundred times!
- e. I wouldn't be surprised if it didn't snow.
- f. If you should see Bill, could you ask him to call me?
- g. If I were to ask you to marry me, what would you say?
- h. If you should happen to be passing, drop in for a cup of tea.
- i. If it weren't for Harry, this company would be in a real mess.
- j. If it hadn't been for their goalkeeper, Spurs would have lost.
- k. If you will wait here, I'll see if Mr Franks is free.
- l. If you would wait here, I'll see if Mr Franks is free.
- m. If you will go out drinking, no wonder you are hungover.
- n. Supposing you won the lottery what would you do?
- o. Thanks for your help. We wouldn't have managed otherwise.
- p. But for his help, we would have been in trouble.
- q. There is a possibility that John will be late. If so, I will take his place, if no-one objects.
- r. If interested, apply within.
- s. The room was well decorated, if a little badly furnished.

Task 2. Answer these questions.

1. What verb forms can be used in 'If' sentences?
2. What does 'should' mean in these sentences?
3. What is the difference between 'will' and 'would'?
4. Which sentences are 'formal'?
5. Which sentences are referring to the Past?
6. Which sentences are referring to the Past and 'Now'?
7. Which sentences are referring to the future?
8. Which 'rules' are broken by these sentences?
9. Are the 'rules' wrong or are the sentences?

Key

Note all the sentences a. to s. are correct.

A good way to do this is to fold the paper after task 1 and not look at Task 2 until all the sentences have been 'corrected' and you disclose the fact that they are all correct.