



Conditional practice

1 Complete the sentences below with the words and expressions in the box.

as long as if exploitation if that were not the case
 if the situation is to change If we continue if we didn't use them
 if we look back if we want to if you are poor otherwise
 unless something whether or not

- 1 a We exploit the natural resources of the planet because there is really no other choice enjoy the quality of life we have.
- b The resources are there to be exploited, and, we would have to make serious changes to our lifestyles.
- c of the planet's resources continues as at present, then the lifestyle we currently enjoy runs the risk of causing significant damage to the world.
- 2 a is done about it, the rising sea levels we have already witnessed will threaten many low-lying countries.
- b Low-lying countries like Holland and many Pacific islands can survive further measures are taken to protect their coastlines from erosion and the threat posed by the sea.
- c The future of many countries depends on we can find an effective solution to the challenge represented by the continued and accelerating melting of polar ice sheets and the resultant change in sea level.
- 3 a We live in a world of inequalities, and as far as poverty is concerned, it has long been recognized that, the key must lie in ensuring children in poor families have access to education.
- b The value of education as a positive force for society has been largely taken for granted by the middle classes, who benefit from it in great numbers, whereas in many parts of the world,, you tend to face the stark choice between education or sending your children out in search of any type of work that can put food on the table.
- c It is not that people question whether education can help lift the poor out of the poverty that is their prison, but rather that the day-to-day reality for people in that situation is that they must do what they have to in order to survive., there would be no child labour, something the middle classes sometimes fail to comprehend.
- 4 a In this time of accelerating change in all aspects of life, it is often forgotten that ecosystems are undergoing a process of constant change and are themselves subject to evolution, so that at various times they will be composed of different organisms. at the ecosystems of 10,000 years ago, they are different from the ones we have today.
- b As we continue to lose species at a rapid rate, it is imperative that we discover which losses will have the most serious consequences on ecosystems, the unprecedented degree of change risks causing the collapse of the ecosystems that we all ultimately depend on.
- c to lose species at the same alarming rate as at present, there is no doubt that the ecosystems will be profoundly different by the end of the century; however, we must also remember that the process of loss through evolution is a natural one and not unique to this day and age.

- 2** In each group of three sentences in Exercise 1, at least two of them have more or less the same meaning. It is possible that all three are similar in meaning. Read the sentences in each group and decide which one, if any, is the odd one out, and say why.

Sentence completion

- 3** Complete these sentences so they are true for you.

- 1 As long as I work hard, I should ...
- 2 Having a good level of English is important, otherwise ...
- 3 I want to get a good result in the IELTS test. If that were not the case, ...
- 4 My plans for the future depend on whether or not ...
- 5 If I continue to develop my vocabulary and practise my pronunciation, ...
- 6 If I look back on the past year, the things that have been most important for me ...
- 7 Unless something unexpected happens, I will ...
- 8 If people like me want to make a big difference to the world, we ...
- 9 I think if people want to tackle the problems of the environment, we ...
- 10 If I want to fulfil my ambitions and make my dreams come true, I ...

Useful expressions with *if* ...

- 4** How many of these expressions do you know how to use? Check in a good dictionary.

if I were you
 if necessary
 if it comes to that
 if you ask me
 if at all
 so what if
 if and when
 if anything
 if it's all the same to you
 if you don't mind
 if only

- 5** Which of the expressions in Exercise 4 best completes each of these sentences?

- 1 The current situation is difficult, with some economies growing by less than 1%,
- 2 You asked me for my advice. Well, , I would walk a bit more rather than taking a taxi everywhere. It's good for you and the environment.
- 3 It's depressing talking about the problems facing the environment. , I'd rather change the subject.
- 4 I don't think governments should be content with what they are doing to value and protect wildlife. , they should do more.
- 5 Fish stocks are dangerously low. Overfishing might drive some species to extinction. , we will have destroyed the balance of life in our oceans for ever.
- 6 We know now that we made serious mistakes in the past. we could turn back time!
- 7 The protesters were prepared to go to prison for what they believed in
- 8 I just don't believe global warming is a proven fact. it rains a bit more in some parts of the world? It's not my problem.