Unit 14 · Expressing Conditions

STUDY NOTES

WHAT THE BLE ASKS

- **CDC's grid tests skills, not units:** Reading 25 · Writing 20 · Grammar 5
- **Reading 1–2 (seen texts, 5 marks each):** *The Magic Mirror*; *If I Was a Superhero*
  - who said it
  - order of events
  - True / False / Not Given
  - word meanings
- **Reading 3–4 (new texts, 5 + 10 marks):** can be a **story** or a **news story**
- **Writing**
  - ten punctuation errors (5 marks)
  - guided writing, 5 marks: a **news story or report**, or a **story**, from notes (the grid names them)
  - free writing, 10 marks: a letter or a short essay
- **Grammar (5 marks): conditional sentences** in the blanks: choose the right verb form

Reading I: The Magic Mirror

- **Kind: story**, fairy-tale kind; ask what each person **believes** and what is **true**
  - a king
  - a poor girl
  - a clever servant
  - a magic object
- **News:** the king of **Granada** wants to marry the most **worthy** girl; court barber, **night watchmen**, old women spread it; money for whoever finds a bride
- **Barber's claim:** owns a **magic mirror**: a dishonest girl's **reflection** shows spots
- **Condition:** the only one; any lady above **20** is **eligible**; she must **gaze** at it, the **cunning** barber at her side
- **Nobody comes:** days and weeks; not one dares
- **Shepherd girl:** lives alone on the **mountainside**; "low birth"; the king says call her, warn her first
- **Royal hall:** she is shy, the king **pleased**; he **reminds** her of the condition
- **Her answer:** everyone makes mistakes, she is no **exception**; doesn't badly want to be queen; **isn't afraid to look**
- **The test:** no **stains**; the women **snatch** the mirror, shout it has no magic
- **King:** one of you could have been queen, if she had trusted herself
- **Truth:** the mirror had no magic; **confidence** was the test

Reading II: If I Was a Superhero

- **Kind: poem** by **Sally Gray**, six verses, each opening with the same words; **second conditional** throughout; *I'd = I would*
- **1: definitely** fly, arms **outstretched**, racing the birds
- **2: special powers**: strong legs, leaping over **towers**
- **3:** save the oceans with a secret magical **potion**
- **4:** save the trees, mountains, rivers, birds and bees
- **5:** food for the poor, never hungry again
- **6:** the joke: a better world, all thanks to "me"
- **Devices:**
  - **repetition**
  - **rhyme**, lines 2 and 4 (*fly / sky, powers / towers, oceans / potions, trees / bees, poor / more, agree / me*)
  - **imagery** (arms stretched out, racing birds)
- **powers:** first for fun, then to help
- title says *If I was*; in an exam: ***If I were***

Key words

worthy: deserving respect, or to be chosen.
constantly: all the time.
reflection: the picture of you in a mirror.
cunning: clever at tricking people.
eligible: allowed, because you meet the rules.
gaze: look steadily for a long time.
maiden: (old) a young unmarried woman.
reminded: made someone remember.
exception: one a general rule doesn't cover.
stains: dirty marks, hard to remove.
snatched: took quickly and roughly.
outstretched: reaching out as far as they will go.
potion: a magic liquid.
export: sell goods to another country.
self-reliant: able to do without help from others.
grant: money given for a purpose, not paid back.

Grammar: conditional sentences

- **if-clause** (condition) + **main clause** (result); if-clause first → comma

Kind	If-clause	Main clause	Use
zero	present	present	fact
first	present	**will** + verb	real future
second	past	**would** + verb	imagined, untrue or unlikely
third	**had** + p.p.	**would have** + p.p.	imagined past: didn't happen

- **zero:** *If you mix blue and yellow, you get green.*
- **first:** *If the bus comes late, I will walk.*
- **second:** *If I had wings, I would fly to Mustang.*
- **third:** *If Karma had left earlier, he would have caught the bus.*

What is really true?

- *If Rojina lived near the school, she would walk.* → she doesn't live near it
- *If Salim had set an alarm, he wouldn't have overslept.* → he didn't; he overslept

Rules that save marks

- no *will, would* in the if-clause
- ***were*** with every person: *If I were you*
- *may, might, can, could* can replace *will, would*: *If you finish early, you can go.*
- *will* drops out when the words move to an if-clause: *I will stay awake* → *If I stay awake*

Choosing the form (blanks)

1. find the **verb given**
2. name its **row:**
   - *will* first
   - *would* + verb second
   - *would have* third
   - *had* + p.p. after *if* third
   - plain past after *if* second
3. give the other half the **same row**

- **jobs of an if-sentence:**
  - plan
  - warning
  - offer
  - promise

Writing: completing a story

- most gaps: **past tense**
- going on when something else happened: past continuous: *was eating*
- **inside quotation marks:** the tense the character would use

Writing: a news story

- facts, not feelings; **most important thing first**; only the facts in the notes
- **Headline:** short, sums it up; drops small words, present tense: *Nepal Begins Exporting Cement*
- **Byline:** *By* + your name
- **Dateline: place** and date: *Kathmandu, 10th July 2021*
- **Lead:** first paragraph; often present perfect; **5W1H**:
  - *what*
  - *why*
  - *who*
  - *when*
  - *where*
  - *how*
- **Body:** past tense
  - examples
  - data
  - quotations
- **passive** when the action matters: *He was awarded the prize.*
- **name the source:**
  - *says*
  - *said*
  - *according to*

British and American sounds

- **-ile:** British **MOH**-byle, **MIS**-yle; American **MOH**-bul, **MIS**-ul
- **short / long i:** British **VIT**-uh-min, **PRIV**-uh-see, **DIN**-uh-stee; American **VY**-tuh-min, **PRY**-vuh-see, **DY**-nuh-stee
- **schedule: SHEJ**-ool / **SKEJ**-ool
- **leisure: LEZH**-uh / **LEE**-zhur; **either, neither: NY**- or **NEE**- in both
- **advertisement:** ad-**VER**-tis-ment / **AD**-ver-**TYZE**-ment
- final *r*: American says it
- neither is wrong; choose one, keep to it

COMMON MISTAKES

✗ If it will rain, we will stay in.
✓ If it **rains**, we will stay in.

✗ If I would know, I would tell you.
✓ If I **knew**, I would tell you.

✗ If she studies, she would pass.
✓ If she studies, she **will** pass.

✗ If he had come, I would meet him.
✓ If he had come, I **would have met** him.

✗ If I was you, ...
✓ If I **were** you, ...

✗ We will go out, if the rain stops.
✓ We will go out if the rain stops. (**no comma**)

✗ a dateline with only the date
✓ **place** and date

✗ a made-up number in a news story
✓ only the facts in the **notes**