

Omission of *if*: inversion

In formal language, usually in writing, you can omit *if* and move the auxiliary verb – *should*, *were* and *had* – in front of the subject.

- *Should* and *were* suggest the condition is unlikely:

Should *the order fail to arrive, the company will replace the goods free of charge.* (= If the order fails ...)

Were *it not for the support of her family, the singer would have been unable to pursue her career.* (= If her family had not supported her ...)

- *had*:

Had *the production failed at the box office, the future of its director would have been uncertain.* (= If the production had failed ...)

When using inversion, we do not use contractions with negatives in the dependent clauses:

*If I **hadn't** won the tickets for The Hunger Games in a raffle, we wouldn't have seen it yesterday.*

Had I not won the tickets for The Hunger Games in a raffle, we wouldn't have seen it yesterday. (no contraction in an inverted sentence)

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets.

- 1 If I (can/go) back in time, I (visit) Ancient Greece.
- 2 If the government (be/cut) funding for the arts, it (have) serious implications for the creative industries.
- 3 According to actress Julie Walters, if she (start out) today, she (never/be able) to afford to go to drama school.
- 4 If Disney (not/approve) the stage version of *The Lion King*, audiences (not/enjoy) it today.
- 5 If the director (not/already/have) experience in experimental theatre, her stage version of *The Lion King* (might/not/turn out) to be so stunningly effective.
- 6 If it (not/be) for the support she received from her family, Amy (never/manage) to achieve the success she has.

2 Complete the sentences using the words in brackets. Do not change the order of the words given, but add extra words if necessary.

- 1 I'm going to get a job as an extra whether my mother (approve/it) not.
- 2 (should/have) any questions regarding enrolment, transferring to another drama school or transcript requests, please do not hesitate to contact us.
- 3 She will definitely improve her writing style (long/she/keep) writing short stories and poems.
- 4 (I/not/spend) ten years in Spain as a child, I wouldn't have got a part in a Spanish film.
- 5 I'll buy you that sculpture (condition/you/not/keep) it in our front garden.
- 6 (suppose/you/win) the audition, would you take one year off school to act in a film?

3 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use between three and six words including the word in capitals.

- 1 You will only become successful if you have discipline and commitment. **UNLESS**
You you have discipline and commitment.
- 2 If it weren't for the Internet, self-publishing would not now be a booming industry. **BUT**
 , self-publishing would not now be a booming industry.
- 3 You'd better start practising now because if you don't, you won't be ready in time for the concert. **OTHERWISE**
You'd better start practising now, ready for the concert.
- 4 If your vehicle breaks down on the motorway, leave your sidelights on and turn on the hazard warning lights. **CASE**
 on the motorway, leave your sidelights on and turn on the hazard warning lights.
- 5 If we had known that a famous celebrity was attending the party, we would have gone. **HAD**
 that a famous celebrity was attending the party, we would have gone.
- 6 If you changed your mind, you would be very welcome to come with us. **WERE**
 , you would be very welcome to come with us.
- 7 Don't be nervous or you won't do well in the audition. **AS**
You'll do well in the audition nervous.
- 8 You'll have to take over if the director resigns. **SHOULD**
 , you'll have to take over.
- 9 I would have gone to the cinema even if he hadn't come with me. **WHETHER**
I would have gone to the cinema with me.