

## Omitting *If* in Conditional Sentences

When using the conditional with the verbs “be”, “have”, and “should”, the word “if” may be omitted.

Example: If Mary had known that she would get into trouble, she would have spoken to Prof. Donahue.

With a sentence as the one above, here are the steps to follow:

1. The word “if” is deleted.
2. The subject, Mary, is placed between had and known.
3. If the sentence is negative, the negation goes after the subject.

Example: Had Mary known that she would get into trouble, she would have spoken to Prof. Donahue.

Had the boys not spoken to their dad, they would have been punished.

Try these:

1. If they were here, they would know what to do.  
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2. If the reporter had known he was going to be fired, he wouldn't have done that.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. If Robert should call, please tell him I no longer live here.  
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4. The child would have finished the test if had realized he had more time.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Life would be very boring if there were no challenges.  
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6. We would have been in total darkness If we had not known what the situation was.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Mary can help herself to the refrigerator if she should get hungry.  
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