

How to Express Hypothetical Situations in French?

Worksheet

Hypothetical situations in French use the conditional tense (present: 'je serais'; past: 'j'aurais') combined with 'si' + imperfect ('si j'étais' = if I were). The structure 'si + imparfait, conditionnel' expresses unreal present/future; 'si + plus-que-parfait, conditionnel passé' expresses unreal past.

Questions

1. Fill: Si vous ____ en France, que feriez-vous? (If you were in France, what would you do?)
A) étiez
B) serez
C) seriez
D) êtes
2. Complete: Si j'avais de l'argent, je ____ une maison. (If I had money, I would buy a house.)
A) achèterais
B) achète
C) aurais acheté
D) acheterais
3. Which is correct for 'If I were you, I would apologize'?
A) Si j'étais toi, je m'excuserais.
B) Si j'étais toi, je m'excuserai.
C) Si j'étais toi, je m'excuses.
D) Si je serais toi, je m'excuserais.
4. Translate: 'If it were raining, we wouldn't go out.'
A) Si il pleuvait, nous ne sortirions pas.
B) Si il pleut, nous ne sortirions pas.
C) Si il pleut, nous ne sortons pas.
D) Si il pleuvrait, nous ne sortirions pas.
5. Express: If you studied more, you would pass the exam.
6. Create a hypothetical about the past: If I had known, I would have called you.
7. Build a complex hypothetical: If he were here, we would celebrate.
8. Define: What is the 'si' clause for present hypotheticals?
9. Define: What tense follows 'si + imparfait'?
10. Define: How do you express an unreal past hypothetical?

Answer Key

1. A) étiez — 'Étiez' (imparfait) is correct. 'Si + imparfait' for hypothetical. 'Serez' is futur (wrong after si); 'seriez' is conditionnel (wrong as the 'si' clause).
2. C) aurais acheté — 'Aurais acheté' (conditionnel passé) is correct with 'si j'avais' (plus-que-parfait). This is unreal past.
3. A) Si j'étais toi, je m'excuserais. — 'Si j'étais toi, je m'excuserais' uses si + imparfait, then conditionnel. This is the standard hypothetical structure.
4. A) Si il pleuvait, nous ne sortirions pas. — 'Si il pleuvait' (imparfait) + 'ne sortirions pas' (conditionnel). 'Pleuvrait' is wrong after 'si.'
5. Si tu étudiais plus, tu réussirais l'examen. Structure: si + imparfait (étudiais), conditionnel (réussirais) Translation: If you studied (more), you would pass the exam. Note: The situation is unreal—you're not actually studying more.
6. Si j'avais su, je t'aurais appelé. Structure: si + plus-que-parfait (avais su), conditionnel passé (aurais appelé) Translation: If I had known, I would have called you. Note: This describes something that didn't happen.
7. Si il était ici, on célèbrerait. Structure: si + imparfait (était), conditionnel (célébrerait) Or more formal: S'il était ici, nous célèbrerions. Note: Use 'on' (informal) or 'nous' (formal) for 'we.'
8. si + imparfait (e.g., 'si j'étais'). Example: Si j'étais libre, je sortirais. (If I were free, I would go out.)
9. Conditional present: 'Si j'avais du temps, je lirais.' (If I had time, I would read.)
10. si + plus-que-parfait (had + past participle), then conditionnel passé. Example: Si j'avais su, j'aurais aidé. (If I had known, I would have helped.)

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.