

## FOCUSED PRACTICE

27

### 1 ABRACADABRA?

Grammar Notes 1-3

Complete this article from a popular psychology magazine. Use the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

## BEYOND Wishful Thinking

BY IWANNA B. RICH

Marty Hijab has always wanted to invite his whole family over for the holidays, but his apartment is small, and his family is very large. "If I invited them all for dinner, there wouldn't be enough room for everyone to sit down," he told a friend. If Marty were a complainer, he would moan about the size of his apartment and spend the holiday at his parents' house. But Marty is a problem solver. This year he is hosting an open house. People can drop in at different times during the day, and there will be room for everyone.



"If life were a fairy tale, we could wish problems away," noted Joel Grimes, a practicing Los Angeles therapist. "This is what complainers are trying to do when they moan about a problem. What they are really saying is, 'If I had a magical solution, I wouldn't have to deal with this myself.' I wish it were that easy," says Grimes, "but unfortunately it's not." He gives the example of one of his clients, a very wealthy man who complains constantly about his limited time for his family. "He's waiting for a miracle to give him the time he needs to get to know his children. But if he thought about the problem creatively, he could find the time," says Grimes.

Resources (time, money, space) always have limits, even for the rich. If complainers realized this, then they would understand that there will always be problems. They could then stop using these limitations as excuses and concentrate on solutions. Marty is a student and works only part-time. If he insisted on a bigger apartment for his party, he might have to wait for years before having his whole family over for dinner. Instead, he is using his actual resources creatively and solving his problems right now.

There's an old saying: "If wishes were horses, then beggars could ride." But wishes aren't horses. We have to learn to create our own good fortune and not wait for a powerful genie with three wishes to come along and solve our problems.





## 2

## MAKING EXCUSES

## Grammar Notes 1.

In his practice, psychologist Joel Grimes hears all types of excuses from his clients. Rewrite these excuses, using present unreal conditional sentences.

1. I'm so busy. That's why I don't read bedtime stories to my little girl.

If I weren't so busy, I would read bedtime stories to my little girl.

2. My husband's not ambitious. That's why he doesn't ask for a raise.

If he were ambitious, he would ask for a raise.

3. I'm not in shape. That's why I don't play sports.

If I were in shape, I would play sports.

4. I don't have enough time. That's why I'm not planning to study for the exam.

If I had enough time, I would plan to study for the exam.

5. I'm too old. That's why I'm not going back to school.

If I weren't too old, I would go back to school.

6. My boss doesn't explain things properly. That's why I can't do my job.

If he explained things properly, I could do my job.

7. I'm not good at math. That's why I don't balance my checkbook.

If I were good at math, I would balance my checkbook.

8. I feel nervous all the time. That's why I can't stop smoking.

If I didn't feel nervous all the time, I could stop smoking.



## 3 THE FISH'S WISHES

### Grammar Note 7

Remember the fish from the fairy tale on pages 22-23? Now read his regrets. Rewrite them with **wish**.

1. I'm a fish. I wish I weren't a fish.
2. I'm not a handsome prince. I wish I were a handsome prince.
3. I live in the sea. I wish I didn't live in the sea.
4. I don't live in a castle. I wish I lived in a castle.
5. I have to swim all day long. I wish I didn't have to swim all day long.
6. I am not married to a princess. I wish I were married to a princess.
7. The fisherman comes here every day. I wish the fisherman didn't come here every day.
8. His wife always wants more. I wish his wife didn't always want more.
9. She isn't satisfied. I wish she were satisfied.
10. They don't leave me alone. I wish they left me alone.



## 4 WHAT IF?

### Grammar Notes 1-4

Marty is having his open-house holiday party. His nieces and nephews are playing a fantasy question game. Complete their questions with the following words.

1. What / you / do / if / you / be a millionaire?

What would you do if you were a millionaire?

2. What / you / do / if / you / be the mayor of your city?

what would you do if you were the mayor of your city?

3. How / you / feel / if / you / never need to sleep?

How would you feel if you never needed to sleep?

4. What / you / do / if / you / have more free time?

what would you do if you had more free time?

5. What / you / do / if / you / can swim like a fish?

what would you do if you could swim like a fish?

6. What / you / do / if / you / not have to work?

what would you do if you didn't have to work?

7. Where / you / travel / if / you / have a ticket for anywhere in the world?

where would you travel if you had a ticket for anywhere in the world?

8. If / you / can build anything / what / it / be?

If you could build anything, what would it be?

9. If / you / can meet a famous person / who / you / want to meet?

if you could meet a famous person, who would you want to meet?



5

## EDITING

Read part of a book report that Marty's niece wrote. Find and correct six mistakes in the use of the present unreal conditional. The first mistake is already corrected.

NAME: Laila Hijab

CLASS: English 4

### The Disappearance

What would happen to the women if all the men in the world ~~would disappear~~<sup>disappeared</sup>? What would happen to the men ~~when~~<sup>if</sup> there were no women? Philip Wiley's 1951 science-fiction novel, *The Disappearance*, addresses these intriguing questions.

According to Wiley, if men and women ~~live~~<sup>lived</sup> in different worlds, the results would be catastrophic. Wiley thinks that men are too aggressive to survive on their own. If women didn't control them, men ~~will~~<sup>would</sup> start more wars. He also believes that women wouldn't have the technological ~~aren't~~<sup>weren't</sup> skills to survive in their own world. If men ~~aren't~~<sup>weren't</sup> there to pump gas and run the businesses, women wouldn't be able to manage.


Many people disagree with Wiley's visions. In fact, they think the book is sexist. They don't think men are more warlike than women, and they don't believe that women are more helpless than men. I think if men and women learned to cooperate more, the world ~~will~~<sup>would</sup> be a much better place.



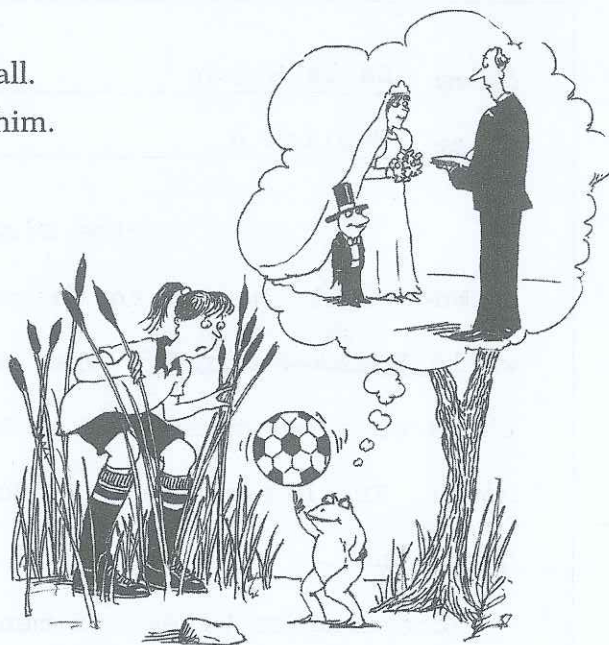


## COMMUNICATION PRACTICE

### 6 LISTENING

 You are going to listen to a modern fairy tale about Cindy, a clever young girl, and a toad. Before you listen, read the statements. Then listen again and mark each statement **True (T)** or **False (F)**.

- F   1. Cindy wishes she had a new soccer ball.
- 2. The toad wishes Cindy would marry him.
- 3. If Cindy married the toad, he would become a prince.
- 4. Cindy wishes she could become a beautiful princess.
- 5. If Cindy became a princess, she'd have plenty of time to study science.
- 6. The toad doesn't know how to use his powers to help himself.
- 7. Cindy wants to become a scientist and help the prince.
- 8. Cindy and the prince get married and live happily ever after.



### 7 JUST THREE WISHES

*In fairy tales, people are often granted three wishes. Imagine that you had just three wishes. What would they be? Write them down. Discuss them with a classmate.*

#### EXAMPLE:

I wish I were famous.

I wish I spoke perfect English.

I wish I knew how to fly a plane.

*There is an old saying: "Be careful what you wish for; it may come true." Look at your wishes again. Discuss what negative results might happen if they came true.*

#### EXAMPLE:

If I were famous, I would have no free time. I wouldn't have a private life . . .