Grade 12 Advanced Grammar Revision | Term 1 / 2026–2027 |
Rise to the Challenge | My roof is alive
By Mr. Ahmed Abdelfattah

Rule 1. Zero conditionals

Use

Use the **zero conditional** for **general truths**, **scientific facts**, **repeated results** and **rules**. **It** describes what **normally happens** whenever a **condition is met**, **NOT** ~~**predicting**~~ one particular ~~**future**~~ event.

Form

If + present simple, present simple
If plants **receive** enough water, they **grow** well.
Condition: **plants receive enough water**.
Result: **they grow well**. (Both clauses use **the present simple**).
With **he**, **she**, **it** or a **singular noun**, add -**s** or -**es** to an ordinary affirmative **verb**:
If a plant absorbs water, **it stays** healthy.
If a plant is watered regularly, **it is kept** healthy. (Present simple passive)
Should you **require** any further information, **don't hesitate** to contact me.

Changing the order and punctuation

If the **roof has** good drainage, excess **water flows** away.
Excess water **flows** away **if** the roof **has** good drainage.
(The **meaning stays the same**. Put a comma after an **opening if-clause**. Normally, **no comma** is needed **when the if-clause comes second**.)

Negatives and the verb be

Use **do not** / **does not** + **base verb**:
If plants do not receive water, they **dry** out.
If a drain does not work, water **collects** on the roof. (Never write "**does** not ~~**works**~~".)
Unless a drain works, water **collects** on the roof.

With verb **(be)**, use **am** / **is** / **are**, and add **not** for a **negative**:
If the **soil is** dry, the **surface is** less moist.
If drains are not clear, **water does not flow** freely.

If and when

(When) can replace (**if**) when the **meaning** is "**whenever**":
When rain falls, the growing **medium absorbs** some water.
(If) presents the **condition**;
(when) emphasizes the **repeated occasion**.

Zero Conditional Practice

Choose A, B or C. Each question has one correct answer.

1. **If rain falls on the living roof, the growing medium ____ some of the water.**
A) absorb B) absorbs C) absorbing
2. **If the drains ____ blocked, excess water collects on the roof.**

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A) is B) be C) are

3. If vegetation does not receive enough water, it ____ out.

A) dries B) dry C) will drying

4. Which sentence correctly describes a repeated result?

A) If plants will receive light, they grow.

B) If plants receive light, they grow.

C) If plants received light, they will grow.

5. Which sentence has the correct punctuation?

A) If the soil is dry plants need water.

B) Plants need water if, the soil is dry.

C) If the soil is dry, plants need water.

6. Plants grow well ____ they receive enough light and water.

A) if B) unless not C) so

7. If a drainage outlet does not ____ properly, water builds up.

A) works B) working C) work

8. ____ rain falls, the roof plants receive water naturally.

A) When B) During C) Because of

9. Which sentence keeps the meaning of "If drains are clear, water flows away"?

A) Water flows away if drains will be clear.

B) Water flows away if drains are clear.

C) If water flows away, drains always become clear.

10. Which sentence is a zero conditional rather than a prediction about one future event?

A) If it rains tomorrow, we will cancel the roof tour.

B) If the school gets funding next week, it will install a roof garden.

C) If roots absorb water, they supply it to the plant.

Rule 2. Comparative Adjectives

Comparatives compare **two people** or **things**.

One syllable adjective + er + than

cool → cooler; **small → smaller**; **tall → taller**.

The **planted surface** is **cooler than** the bare surface.

Spelling changes

An adjective ending in silent -**e** takes -**r**: **safe → safer**, **large → larger**.

If there is a short adjective, ending in **a vowel + consonant, double** the final **consonant**:

hot → hotter, **big → bigger**, **thin → thinner**.

Do not double final **w**, **x** or **y**: **low → lower**.

If there is an **adjective** ending in **consonant + y**, change **(y)** to **(i)** and adds -**er**:

healthy → healthier, **heavy → heavier**, **dry → drier**.

Healthy **plants support** a **healthier** roof ecosystem.

Wet soil is **heavier than** dry soil.

Longer adjectives

more or less + adjective + than

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Use **(more)** with most adjectives of **three** or **more** syllables and **many two-syllable** adjectives: **more sustainable**, **more effective**, **more useful**.
A well-planned roof can be **more sustainable than** an unused bare roof.

Use **(less)** to show a **lower degree**:
A shaded roof is **less exposed** to direct sunlight **than** an unshaded roof.

Two syllable adjectives

Many other **two-syllable adjectives** take **more**, such as **more useful** and **more careful**.
Some **allow both forms**, for example **simpler** / **more simple**, **happier**/ **more happy**, **healthier**/ **more healthy**.

Irregular forms

good → **better**; **bad** → **worse**; **far** → **further** / **farther**.
A clear **drain** is **better** than a blocked **one**.
A blocked outlet makes drainage **worse**.
(Farther) often refers to physical distance;
(further) can refer to distance or **an additional extent**.

Building the comparison

Subject + **be** + **comparative adjective** + **than** + **second item**.
The new drainage system is **better than** the old one.
Use **(than)**, not **~~(then)~~**. You may leave out the second item when it is understood:
After maintenance, the roof is **safer**.

Modifiers before comparatives

Use **much**, **far** or **a lot** to **show** a **large difference**:
The shaded roof is **much cooler than** the bare roof.
Use **a little**, **a bit** or **slightly** for a **small difference**:
The new soil layer is **slightly deeper than** the old one.
~~Do not use~~ **~~(very)~~** directly before a **comparative**:
write **much cooler**, not **~~very cooler~~**. **(Very)** goes with a normal adjective: **very cool**.

Comparing equal or unequal qualities

Equality: **as + adjective + as**.
This roof is **as safe as** the conventional roof.
Inequality: **not as + adjective + as**.
The bare roof is **not as attractive as** the planted one.
Use the **base adjective** inside **as … as**: as **cool** as, not as **~~cooler~~** as.
These patterns support **comparison**, although they are not **comparative adjective** forms **themselves**.

The more …, the more …

The **bigger** the car, the **better** it will be.
The **cheaper** the apartment, the **more suitable** it will be for me.
The **more challenging** the game, the **more exciting** it will be.

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Exercise

Choose A, B or C. Each question has one correct answer.

1. The shaded roof is ____ than the unshaded one.
A) cool B) coolest C) cooler

2. During the experiment, the bare surface became ____ than the planted surface.
A) hotter B) hoter C) more hot

3. A wet soil layer is usually ____ than the same layer when dry.
A) heavyer B) heavier C) more heavier

4. After the broken railing was repaired, the rooftop became ____.
A) more safer B) safest than C) safer

5. The new design is ____ sustainable and ____ exposed to direct sunlight than the old one.
A) more / less B) most / least C) more / lesser

6. The new drain is ____ than the old one, the blocked drain is ____, and the garden is ____ from the entrance than before.
A) gooder / badder / farer
B) better / worse / farther
C) more better / more worse / more farther

7. The improved roof is ____ cooler than the old one; the temperature difference is large.
A) very B) many C) much

8. The new soil layer is only ____ deeper than the old layer; the difference is small.
A) slightly B) very C) most

9. Choose the correct adjective forms:
The roof plants are as ____ as the fence, but the bare roof is not as ____ as the planted one.
A) taller / more attractive
B) tall / attractive
C) tallest / most attractive

10. Choose the sentence with both comparison patterns correctly formed.
A) The garden is becoming ~~more greener~~ and more greener; the more deep the soil, the heavyer the load.
B) The garden is becoming greener than greener; deeper soil, the more heavier the load.
C) The garden is becoming greener and greener; the deeper the soil, the heavier the load.

Rule 3. Quantity words

Quantity words tell us **how much** of something or **how many** things there are. These **adverbs of quantity** come **before nouns**.

Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable nouns have **singular** and **plural** forms: **a plant**, **plants**; **a rooftop**, **rooftops**; **a habitat**, **habitats, an umbrella; umbrellas**.

Uncountable nouns are normally treated as a **mass**: **water**, **vegetation**, **insulation**, **drainage** and **biodiversity**.
Use a **singular verb** (**is/plays/has**) with an **uncountable subject**:
The **vegetation** **is** healthy.

Use a **plural verb** (**are/play/have**) with a **plural countable subject**:
The plant**s** **are** healthy.

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(much) and (many)
Use **(many)** with **plural countable nouns** and **(much)** with **uncountable nouns**.
How **many** plant**s are** on the rooftop?
How **much water does** the living roof absorb?
We do not have **many** drainage **outlets**.
There **is not much vegetation**.

(much) is especially common in **questions** and **negatives**;
in ordinary **affirmative sentences**, **(a lot of)** is usually more natural.

Question: How **much** soil **do these trees** need**?**
Negative: The living roof **does not** need **much** water.
Affirmative: The living roof absorbs **a lot of** water.

(a lot of) and (lots of) (some)
They work with **plural countable** and **uncountable nouns**:
The living **roof** support**s a lot of** insect**s**.
The growing **medium** absorb**s lots of water**.

The **verb agrees with** the **noun**:
A lot of **water is** retained.
A lot of plant**s are** growing healthily.
(In **formal writing**, **many** plants or **a large amount of** water may **be preferred)**.

(a few) and (few)
Use **both** with plural **countable nouns**. (**A few**) means **some**, often **enough** for the purpose:
A few native plants provide a small habitat.
(**Few**) means **not many**, often **fewer** than **needed (not enough/ complaint/ problem)**:
Few plants survive without suitable maintenance.

(a little and little)
Use **both** with **uncountable nouns**. (**A little**) means **some**:
A little water remains in the tank. (**enough**)
(**Little**) means almost **none**:
Little water remains, so the vegetation may **dry out**. (**Not enough**)

(too much) and (too many)
(**too**) means **more than** is **suitable**. Use (**too much** + **uncountable noun**):
Too much water can cause problems if drainage **is** poor.
Use (**too many** + **plural countable noun**):
Too many heavy **containers** can overload a rooftop.

(enough) and (not enough)
(**enough**) means **as much** or **as many as needed**.
Put (**enough**) **before** a **noun**: **enough water**, **enough plants**, **enough insulation**.
There **is** not **enough water** to keep the vegetation healthy.

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Note:
After an adjective, use (**adjective** + **enough**):
The growing medium is **deep enough**.
Do not write ~~**enough**~~ deep.

(less) and (fewer)
Use (**less**) with **uncountable nouns**:
A sustainable design may use **less water**.
Use (**fewer**) with **plural countable nouns**:
This plan needs **fewer containers**.
(**more**) **works** with **both**: **more vegetation** and **more habitats**.

Exercise
Choose A, B or C. Each question has one correct answer.
1. How ____ **water** can this growing medium absorb?
A) many B) much C) few
2. How ____ rooftop **gardens** does **the city** maintain**?**
A) much B) little C) many
3. There **are** ____ native **plants** on the rooftop, but they are **enough** to create a small habitat.
A) a few B) few C) a little
4. There **is** ____ **vegetation** on the **neglected** roof; most of the surface is **bare**.
A) a little B) little C) few
5. We have ____ **insulation** left; it is **enough** to cover one small section.
A) a few B) few C) a little
6. There **are** ____ clear drainage **outlets**, so water cannot escape quickly enough.
A) few B) a little C) much
7. The new design uses ____ **water** than the old one.
A) fewer B) less C) many
8. The redesigned rooftop has ____ drainage **outlets** than the original plan.
A) less B) little C) fewer
9. The soil is completely dry. There **is** not ____ **water** for the vegetation to survive.
A) enough B) too many C) few
10. The engineer rejects the plan because **it** places ____ heavy **containers** on the rooftop.
A) too much B) too many C) a little

Rule 4. Present simple passive

Use and meaning
Use the **passive** when the **action**, **process** or **receiver matters more than** the **person doing it**. It is useful for **general facts**, **regular maintenance** and **explanations** of **living roof systems**.
Active: The growing medium **absorbs rainwater**.
Passive: **Rainwater is absorbed by the growing medium**.

Affirmative form
Subject + **am** / **is** / **are** + **past participle**.
am with **I**
is with **he**, **she**, **it** and **singular** or **uncountable nouns**
are with **you**, **we**, **they** and **plural nouns**.

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The **rooftop is inspected**.
The **plants are selected** carefully.
Insulation is installed below the growing layers.
(The **helping verb agrees with the receiver** of **the action**).
We need to water the plants.
Plants need **to be watered**.
The drainage system needs **to be maintained**.

Past participles

Regular past participles usually end in **(-ed)**: **inspect → inspected**; **absorb → absorbed**; **maintain → maintained**; **install → installed**.
Irregular forms must be learned: **choose → chosen**; **build → built**; **grow → grown**; **make → made**.
Suitable **vegetation is chosen** for the climate.
Living **roofs are built** on suitable structures.

Changing active to passive

1 Identify the active **object**.
2 **Move it** to **subject position**.
3 **Choose am**, **is** or **are**.
4 Add the **past participle**.
5 Include **by** + **agent** only **if useful**.
Active: Specialists inspect **the rooftop**.
Passive: **The rooftop is inspected by specialists**.
Active: The team selects **native plants**.
Passive: **Native plants are selected by the team**.
Students ask Mr. Ahmed **too many questions**.
Too many questions are asked to Mr. Ahmed.
I am asked too many questions **by students**.

Negative form

Subject + **am not** / **is not** / **are not** + **past participle**.
The living roof is not watered every day.
Unsuitable plants **are not selected**.
Contractions include **is not → isn't** and **are not → aren't**.

Yes or no questions and short answers

Am / **Is** / **Are** + **subject** + **past participle?**
Is the drainage **system checked** regularly**? Yes**, it **is**. No, it **isn't**.
Are the **outlets cleaned** each month? Yes, they **are**. No, they **aren't**.

Wh questions

Question word + **am** / **is** / **are** + **subject** + **past participle**?
How is rainwater absorbed?
Where are native plants grown?
Why is insulation installed?
How often is the rooftop inspected?

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Exercise

Choose A, B or C. Each question has one correct answer.

1. Before installation, the rooftop ____ by a structural engineer.
A) inspects B) is inspecting C) is inspected
2. Native plants ____ for the living roof every spring.
A) are selected B) is selected C) selects
3. Excess rainwater ____ through clear drainage outlets.
A) removes B) is removed C) is remove
4. The vegetation ____ with harmful chemicals.
A) does not treat B) is not treat C) is not treated
5. ____ the drainage outlets cleaned regularly?
A) Are B) Do C) Is
6. How often ____ the rooftop ____ for damage?
A) does / inspected B) is / inspected C) is / inspect
7. Which sentence is the correct passive form of "Gardeners maintain the vegetation"?
A) The vegetation maintains gardeners.
B) The vegetation is maintain by gardeners.
C) The vegetation is maintained by gardeners.
8. The living roof ____ by trained workers, not by the residents.
A) is maintained B) is maintaining C) maintains
9. Which sentence uses the **present simple passive**?
A) The insulation is effective.
B) The insulation is checked each year.
C) The insulation is being checked now.
10. Rainwater ____ by the growing medium, and suitable habitats ____ for insects.
A) absorbs / create B) are absorbed / is created C) is absorbed / are created

Rule 5. Indirect questions

Use and opening phrases

Indirect questions place a **question inside another question** or **statement**. They make **requests more polite** or **report** what **someone wants** to **know**.

Common openings include **Could you tell me …?**, **Do you know …?**, **I wonder** …, **We would like to know** … and **The residents ask** ….
Direct: How **does the drainage system** work**?**
Indirect: **Could you tell me how the drainage system works?**

Wh questions, but statement order

Keep the **question word**, then use **subject** + **verb**.
Direct: **Where is the rooftop garden**?
Indirect: **Do you know where the rooftop garden is?**
Direct: **Why are native plants** useful?
Indirect: **Could you explain why native plants are** useful**?**
(**Do not invert the subject and verb inside the indirect question**).

Removing (do, does and did)

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When **do**, **does** or **did** is only a **question helping verb**, **remove it** and use the **correct main verb form**.
How **does** the living roof **reduce** urban heat**?** → **Could you explain how the living roof reduces** urban heat**?**
Where **do** insects **find** habitat**?** → **Do you know where insects find** habitat**?**
An insect finds habitat on the rooftop.
Where does an insect find habitat**?**
Insects find habitat on the rooftop.
Where do **insects find habitats?**
Why **did** the team **choose** this vegetation**?** → **I wonder why** the team **chose** this vegetation.
(Keep **do** when it is the main verb):
What **do** the gardeners **do**?
Do you know what the gardeners **do?**

Questions with (be), (modals), and (the passive)

Move **be** or **a modal** after the subject:
Is the design sustainable**?** → **Do you know whether/if the design is** sustainable**?**
Can the roof support the weight**?** → **Could you tell me whether/if the roof can** support the weight**?**
In **passive clauses**, **retain** the **complete passive form**:
How is insulation **installed?** → **Could you explain how** insulation **is installed?**

Yes or no questions with (if) and (whether)

When there is **no question word**, add **(if)** or **(whether)**.
Does the roof support biodiversity**?** → **Do you know if/whether** the roof **supports** biodiversity**?**
Is the drainage system effective? → **I wonder whether/if the drainage system is** effective.

When (whether) is needed

Use **(whether)** before **(to infinitive)**:
We must decide **whether to install** a living roof.
~~**Do not use**~~ (~~**if to install**~~).
Use **whether** after a **preposition**:
The decision depends **on whether** the structure is strong enough.
(whether or not) can stay together: We need to know **whether or not** the habitat is protected.
(**If**) can be **used** with **(or not) at the end**: We need to know **if** the habitat is protected **or not**.

Subject questions

When **who** or **what** is the **subject**, the **direct question** already has **subject order**:
What absorbs rainwater**?** → **Do you know what absorbs** rainwater**?**
Who designs sustainable roofs? → **Could you tell me who designs sustainable roofs?**

Punctuation and tense

Use a **question mark** if the complete sentence is a **question**: **Could you tell me** how the roof reduces urban heat**?**
Use a **full stop** if it is a **statement**: **I wonder how** the roof reduces urban heat**.**

Exercise

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Choose A, B or C. Each question has one correct answer.

1. **Could you tell me** ____?
A) how the drainage system works
B) how does the drainage system work
C) how the drainage system work

2. **Do you know** ____?
A) where are the native plants grown
B) where the native plants are grown
C) where the native plants grown

3. **I wonder** ____ the rooftop **can** support **the extra weight**.
A) that B) what C) whether

4. **Could you explain how much water** ____?
A) the growing medium absorbs
B) does the growing medium absorb
C) the growing medium absorb

5. The residents **would like to know** ____ suitable for this climate.
A) which plants is B) which plants are C) which are plants

6. **Do you know how often** ____?
A) is the vegetation watered B) the vegetation waters C) the vegetation is watered

7. Which sentence has correct **punctuation**?
A) Could you tell me whether the roof is safe?
B) Could you tell me whether the roof is safe.
C) I wonder whether the roof is safe?

8. The engineer asks **whether** ____ enough insulation.
A) does the roof have B) the roof has C) the roof have

9. We need to find out ____ to improve biodiversity.
A) what can we do B) what do we can C) what we can do

10. We have not decided ____ **install** a living roof or keep the bare surface.
A) whether to B) if to C) that to

Rule 6. Adverbial linkers (G.2.5)

Use

Adverbial linkers connect ideas across **sentences**. Choose the **linker** that **shows** how **the second idea** relates to **the first**.

Contrast

(However,) and **(in contrast,) (Nonetheless,) (Nevertheless)** show **contrast**.
The rooftop habitat supports wildlife. **However**, the plants still need a lot of care.

Addition

(In addition,) and **(Moreover,) (Furthermore)** add a **related point**.
Vegetation provides habitat. **In addition**, it can help reduce urban heat.

Result

(Therefore,), (Consequently,) and **(as a result,) (, so)** introduce an **effect** or **conclusion**.
The drainage outlet was blocked. **As a result,** rainwater collected on the roof.

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Consequence of skipping a step

(Otherwise,) shows what may **happen** if an **instruction** is **ignored**.
Clear the outlets regularly. **Otherwise,** water may collect on the roof.

Examples

(For example,) (For instance,) introduces a specific **illustration**.
A living roof can support **pollinators**. **For example,** **bees** usually visit different flowers.

Position and punctuation

After a **full stop**, **capitalize** the **linker** and usually **put** a **comma after it**.
The roof absorbs some rainwater**. However,** excess water still needs a way to drain.

Common mistake

Use (**However,**) to link **complete ideas across sentences**. But, use (**although**) before a **subject and verb** to introduce a **dependent clause**.
Although the roof absorbs some rainwater, **it still needs good drainage**.

Remember

(Furthermore,) adds information. **(In fact,) emphasises** or **clarifies** a **point**. (**Nevertheless**,) signals an **unexpected contrast**. (**On the other hand,**) introduces a **contrasting side**. (**For instance**,) gives **an example**.
Living roofs need regular care. **Nevertheless**, they can provide valuable habitats.

Concession and condition

Adverbial linkers such as **(however,)** connect **complete ideas**.
(Although) and **(if)** introduce dependent clauses.
(Despite) and **(in spite of)** are **prepositions** that introduce **phrases**.

Although, even though, despite and in spite of

Use **although** or **even though** + **subject** + **verb**.
Although the roof is exposed to wind, the vegetation survives.

Use **despite** or **in spite of** + **noun**, **pronoun** or **-ing** form.
Despite the strong **wind**, the vegetation survives.
In spite of facing strong winds, the plants survive.
Use **despite the fact that** or **in spite of the fact that** before a **full clause**.
Write **(despite the wind)** or **(in spite of the wind)**.

Cause and reason

(because) introduces a **reason** and is followed by a **subject + verb**.
Rainwater collected on the roof **because** **the drainage outlet was blocked**.
(because of) is followed by a **noun phrase**.
Rainwater collected on the roof **because of a blocked drainage outlet**.
(due to) is also followed by a **noun phrase**. It **often** comes **after** a form of **(be)**, such as **was** or **were**.
The buildup of rainwater **was** **due to a blocked drainage outlet**.

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If in zero and first conditionals
(If Zero) (**general result / fact**): **if** + **present simple** → **present simple**.
If drainage outlets **are** blocked, water **collects**.
An imperative can also give an **instruction**.
If you **spot** a blockage, **clear** it.

(IF 1) (**real future possibility**): **if** + **present simple** → **will** + **base verb**.
If it **rains** tomorrow, the team **will test** the drains.

If in second and third conditionals
(IF 2) (**hypothetical/ impossible present or future**): **if** + **past simple** → **would** + **base verb**.
(**Unreal past/ false past**)
If the roof **were** larger **now**, we **would grow** more plants.

(IF 3) (**unreal past**): **if** + **past perfect** → **would have** + **past participle**. (**The only past situation**)
If the team **had cleared** the drains, water **would have been taken** away.

If in mixed conditionals
(If mixed) Past condition → **present result**.
If the team **had planted** more vegetation **last year**, the rooftop **would be** cooler **now**.

Unless and other condition expressions
(Unless) means **(except if)** and often replaces **(if … not)**.
The roof may flood **unless** the drains are cleared.
The roof may flood **if** the drains are **not** cleared.

(Even if) shows that **the result stays** the **same**.
Even if it rains, the team **will inspect** the roof.

(As long as) and **(provided that) (providing that)** set a **requirement / condition**.
The team can plant more vegetation **provided that** the roof can bear the weight.

(In case) introduces a **precaution**.
Bring a cover **in case** it rains.

Conditional inversion with (should were and had)
In **formal English**, you can **omit (if)** and move **(should**, **were** or **had)** before the **subject**.
The result clause keeps its original form. Use a **comma** when the **conditional clause** comes **first**.

Should + subject + base verb
Use **this form** for a **possible future situation** or a **polite instruction**.
If you notice a blockage, **tell** the maintenance team. →
Should you notice a blockage, **tell** the maintenance team.

Were + subject + complement or to-infinitive
Use **this form** for a **hypothetical /impossible present** or **future situation**.
If the rooftop **were** stronger **now**, it **could support** deeper soil. →

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Were the rooftop stronger, it **could support** deeper soil.
If the team **were** to plant more vegetation, the rooftop might stay cooler. →
Were the team to plant more vegetation, the rooftop might stay cooler.

Had + subject + past participle
Use **this form** for a **real past** condition.
If I **had checked** the drainage outlets, I **would have noticed** the blockage. →
Had I **checked** the drainage outlets, I **would have noticed** the blockage.
It also **works** with a **present result**.
Had we **planted** more vegetation **last year**, the rooftop **would be** cooler **now**. (**If mix**)

Exercise
Choose A, B or C. Each question has one correct answer.

1. Clear the rooftop drains regularly. ____, rainwater may collect.
A) Otherwise
B) Moreover
C) For example

2. The vegetation provides a habitat for insects. ____, it helps reduce urban heat.
A) In contrast
B) In addition
C) Otherwise

3. A living roof can support pollinators. ____, bees can carry pollen from one flower to another.
A) Therefore
B) Nevertheless
C) For instance

4. ____ being exposed to strong winds, the rooftop plants survived.
A) In spite of
B) Even though
C) Despite that

5. ____ tomorrow, the team will test the drainage system.
A) Should it rains
B) Should it rain
C) Should rain it

6. ____ stronger, it could support deeper soil.
A) Were stronger the roof
B) Were the roof be
C) Were the roof

7. ____ more vegetation last year, the rooftop would be cooler now.
A) Had the team planted
B) Had planted the team
C) Had the team plant

8. The team will not start planting ____ the roof passes inspection.
A) provided that
B) unless
C) as long as

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9. Bring a waterproof cover ____ it rains while you work on the roof.
A) even if
B) unless
C) in case
10. ____ the outlet yesterday, I would have missed the blockage.
A) If I had not checked
B) If I not checked
C) Unless I check
11- Rainwater collected on the rooftop ____ the drainage outlet was blocked.
A) because of
B) due to
C) because

Rule 7. Sequencing adverbs (G.2.2)

Use

Sequencing adverbs tell readers **when** steps **happen** in a **process** or **events occur** in a **description**.

Opening a sequence

(First) and **(To begin with)** introduce the **opening** step.
First, inspect the building before adding any materials.

Continuing a sequence

(Next, **then**, **afterwards** and **after that)** move the reader to a **later step**.
Next, install the drainage layer. **Then**, spread the growing medium.

Showing simultaneous actions

(Meanwhile,) shows that **two actions happen** at **the same time**.
One group sorts the plants. **Meanwhile**, another group checks the drainage outlets.

Closing a sequence

(Finally,) introduces **the last step**.
Finally, check that water can flow through the outlets.

Exercise

Choose A, B, or C.

1. Before any materials are added, the team must check whether the building can support a living roof. ____, they inspect the building before making any decision.
A) Meanwhile
B) First
C) Finally
2. The team starts by checking the building. ____, as the second step, it installs the drainage layer.
A) Next
B) Finally
C) To begin with

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3. The team spreads the growing medium in the morning. ____, in the afternoon, it adds the plants.
A) Meanwhile
B) First
C) Afterwards
4. One group sorts the plants. ____, another group checks the drainage outlets at the same time.
A) After that
B) Meanwhile
C) Finally
5. The installation is almost complete. ____, as the last step, check that water can flow through the outlets.
A) Finally
B) To begin with
C) Meanwhile

Grammar Maze 1

Read the expository text and circle A, B or C within each set of brackets.

My roof is alive

Living roofs turn unused building surfaces into planted spaces. **If rain falls** on a living roof, its growing **medium (1) [A. absorb / B. absorbs / C. absorbing]** some water. **If** the **outlets (2) [A. is / B. be / C. are]** clear, excess **water flows** away. This combination supports healthy plants and helps manage rainfall.

A planted **surface** can be **(3) [A. cooler / B. more cooler / C. coolest] than** a bare **one** in suitable conditions. A carefully designed roof **may** also **provide (4) [A. more good / B. best / C. better]** insulation **than** an otherwise similar roof without the planted layers. However, results depend on the building and climate.

Planning require**s** accurate measurement**s**. Engineer**s** consider how **(5) [A. many / B. much / C. few] water** the growing medium can hold and how **(6) [A. much / B. little / C. many] plants** the available space can support. They also calculate the weight of wet soil before installation.

Before construction, the **building (7) [A. is inspected / B. inspects / C. is inspect] by** a qualified specialist. Suitable **plants (8) [A. selects / B. are selected / C. is selected]** according to local conditions. Residents often ask **whether** the structure **can** support the extra weight. They also want to know **(9) [A. how does the drainage system work / B. how the drainage system works / C. how works the drainage system].** A useful additional question is **(10) [A. whether professional advice is needed / B. whether is professional advice needed / C. whether professional advice needed].**

A living roof can provide **valuable** habitat. **(11) [A. Because / B. Although / C. However],** it **needs** appropriate maintenance. Regular checks help keep outlets clear. **(12) [A. Therefore / B. Although / C. Because]**, a maintenance schedule is an essential part of the plan.

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The installation follows an organized **sequence**. **(13) [A. Finally / B. First / C. Meanwhile],** specialists inspect the structure, **before** any materials are added. **Next**, they install the required protective and drainage layers. **Then**, they add the growing medium and plants. **(14) [A. First / B. Before / C. Finally],** they check the **completed roof** and explain its maintenance requirements. Careful planning helps the roof serve both the building and local **wildlife**.

Grammar Maze 2

Read the expository text and circle A, B or C.

My Roof Is Alive

Living roofs turn empty rooftops into planted spaces. **If** rain **falls** on a living roof, the growing **medium** **(1) [A. absorb / B. absorbs / C. absorbing]** some water. **If** the drainage outlet**s** **(2) [A. are / B. is / C. being]** clear, excess water **flows** away. Plant**s do not grow** well **if they** **(3) [A. does not receive / B. not receive / C. do not receive]** enough light. **Unless** the roof **has** suitable drainage, **water** **(4) [A. collects / B. collect / C. collecting]** around the roots.

These conditions affect the roof's performance. A planted **surface** can be **(5) [A. more cool / B. cooler / C. coolest]** **than** a bare **one**. A deeper growing layer is usually **(6) [A. heavyer / B. more heavy / C. heavier]** **than** a shallow layer made from the same material. A carefully planned **roof** may be **(7) [A. more effective / B. effectiver / C. most effective]** at supporting plants **than** a poorly planned **one**. Healthy vegetation provides **(8) [A. gooder / B. better / C. more better]** **shelter** for **insects** than a roof with dying plants.

The amount of water available also matters. In places where **it rains,** **(9) [A. many / B. a lot / C. a lot of]** **drainage** is particularly important. During dry weather, gardeners are sometimes given **(10) [A. a little / B. a few / C. many]** **advice** to keep the growing medium moist. They check how **(11) [A. many / B. few / C. much]** **water** remains in the storage tank and how **(12) [A. much / B. many / C. little]** **plants** need attention. These checks help prevent waste.

Safety is another essential consideration. Before installation, the **building** **(13) [A. inspects / B. is inspected / C. is inspecting]** **by** a qualified specialist. Protective **sheets** **(14) [A. are placed / B. is placed / C. place]** over the roof surface. Ordinary heavy **soil** (15) [**A. does not use / B. not used / C. is not used**] in this particular design. **Plants** that need unsuitable growing conditions **(16) [A. are not selected / B. is not selected / C. do not selected]** for the rooftop.

Before approving the project, school leaders ask several questions. They want to **know** **(17) [A. how ~~does~~ the drainage system work / B. how the drainage system works / C. how works the drainage system]**. They also **ask** **(18) [A. whether the building is strong enough / B. if is the building strong enough / C. whether the building strong enough]**. Teachers need to **find out** **(19) [A. where can students walk safely / B. where do students can walk safely / C. where students can walk safely]**. Finally, they **check** **(20) [A. if does the roof need regular inspections / B. if the roof needs regular inspections / C. if needs the roof regular inspections]**.

Living roofs can **create habitats for wildlife**. **(21) [A. Moreover / B. However / C. Therefore],** they **offer opportunities for practical science lessons**. Installation can be **expensive**. **(22) [A. For example / B. Moreover / C. Therefore]**, some schools begin with a **small model** before planning a **full rooftop** project. A model is **useful** for learning. **(23) [A. Therefore / B. However / C. For**

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example], it **cannot** show every condition found on a real building. **Several features** require careful **inspection**. **(24) [A. For example / B. Therefore / C. However]**, **drainage outlets** must remain **clear** of leaves.

The construction process follows an organised **sequence**. **(25) [A. Finally / B. First / C. Meanwhile]**, specialists inspect the structure **before any materials are added**. **(26) [A. Previously / B. Finally / C. Next]**, workers install the protective sheets and drainage layers. **While** the workers prepare the rooftop, students label the plants in the classroom. **(27) [A. Meanwhile / B. Afterwards / C. Finally]**, their **teacher** prepares a maintenance record **beside them**. **After** the growing medium and plants **have been added**, the specialists inspect the **completed roof**. **(28) [A. First / B. Finally / C. Previously]**, they explain how to maintain it.

Grammar Maze 3

Read the text and circle A, B or C inside each set of brackets.

A Library Rooftop Garden

A community library uses its rooftop garden to study plants. If a flower opens, its scent **(1) [A. attract / B. attracts / C. attracting]** insects. If an automatic watering timer does not **(2) [A. starts / B. starting / C. start]** at the correct time, a warning light comes on. When the rooftop path**s** **(3) [A. are / B. is / C. be]** wet, visitors use the indoor viewing area. The library keeps the garden closed **(4) [A. unless not / B. unless / C. so]** a supervisor is present.

Visitors compare two seats. The metal seat feels **(5) [A. hoter / B. more hotter / C. hotter]** **than** the wooden seat after an hour in the sun. A basket of freshly watered herbs is **(6) [A. heavier / B. heavyer / C. more heavier]** **than** an empty basket. The new signs give **(7) [A. gooder / B. better / C. more better]** directions **than** the faded signs they replaced. A thick cushion makes the reading bench much **(8) [A. very comfort/ B. many comfort/ C. more comfortable]** **than** a thin cushion; the difference is large. The old entrance is not **as** **(9) [A. accessible / B. more accessible / C. most accessible]** **as** the new entrance for wheelchair users.

The gardening club asks how **(10) [A. many / B. much / C. few]** **compost** it needs for a new herb bed. Only two volunteers are needed for the morning shift. There are **(11) [A. few / B. a little / C. a few]** volunteers available, so the shift is covered. The volunteers have **(12) [A. little / B. a little / C. few]** spare time, **almost none**, so they postpone painting the benches. An online booking system means the library uses less paper and prints **(13) [A. less / B. fewer / C. little]** ticket**s** than before. The new path must be **(14) [A. enough wide / B. width enough / C. wide enough]** for two visitors to pass each other safely.

Each Monday, the digital weather **display** **(15) [A. is updated / B. updates / C. is update]** by a volunteer. Prize-winning photograph**s** **(16) [A. is chosen / B. are chosen / C. are choosed]** for the library website every month. Private event**s** **(17) [A. do not held / B. are not hold / C. are not held]** on this rooftop because it is reserved for public reading sessions. A visitor asks, 'How often **(18) [A. is / B. does / C. are]** the rooftop reading corner cleaned?'

At reception, a visitor asks, '**Could you tell me** **(19) [A. when does the garden close / B. when the garden closes / C. when the garden close]?**' Members of the photography club want to know **(20) [A. where are the winning pictures displayed / B. where the winning pictures**

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displayed / C. where the winning pictures are displayed]. The librarian has not yet decided **(21) [A. whether / B. if / C. that]** to extend the opening hours. A parent asks **(22) [A. whether can children join the workshop / B. whether children can join the workshop / C. whether children join can the workshop]**.

The rooftop offers quiet reading spaces. **(23) [A. However / B. Otherwise / C. Moreover]**, it hosts a weekly gardening club. The lift is temporarily out of service. **(24) [A. Nevertheless / B. Therefore / C. For example]**, the ground-floor exhibition remains open to everyone. Every place on Saturday's tour has been booked. **(25) [A. In addition / B. Therefore / C. For instance]**, new applicants must join a waiting list. Save a copy of your booking confirmation. **(26) [A. Moreover / B. For example / C. Otherwise]**, you may have difficulty proving that you had reserved a place. The outdoor reading event continues **(27) [A. despite / B. although / C. even though]** **the light rain** **(28) [A. as a result of / B. due to / C. because]** the seating area has a waterproof canopy.

To document the garden's progress, the club follows a weekly routine. **(29) [A. Finally / B. First / C. Meanwhile]**, they photograph each herb bed before making any changes. **Next**, the volunteers measure the tallest stems. One member enters the measurements into a database. **(30) [A. Afterwards / B. Finally / C. Meanwhile]**, a second member counts the flowers **at the same time**. Then, the club compares this week's records with last week's records. **(31) [A. Finally / B. First / C. Meanwhile]**, as the last step, it publishes a short update on the library website.

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