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C2 · CONDITIONALS · ≈ 27 MIN

The Hypothetical Past — *practice on paper*

You know the one-form-back model; now practise fresh sentences for pressure, preferences, and unreal comparisons.

Hypothetical past:	**present meaning**	, but after it is time, would rather, and as if the form moves	**one step back**

NAME ..... DATE .....

YOUR BUILD — 1 · SORTING ◯ | 2 · FILL-IN ◯ | 3 · CORRECT ◯ | 4 · WRITE ◯

BRICK 1 · SORT TIME OR DISTANCE · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Sort each English sentence. On the left, the past form describes real past time; on the right, it distances a present situation.

We amended the licence last Monday

Nora preferred the blue mock-up yesterday

The analyst recalled every old figure

The board left after the vote

They priced the service in June

It is high time directors responded

I would rather Omar checked the annex

Lena speaks as if she led the division

It is about time Finance changed suppliers

I would sooner they reduced the audience

ACTUALLY PAST	PRESENT BUT DISTANCED

BRICK 2 · MOVE THE FORM BACK · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Insert exactly the form given in the English cue.

01 It is high time the committee _____ a chair. (use elected)

02 I would rather Marta _____ the revised forecast. (use shared)

03 The intern talks as if he _____ the project. (use ran)

04 It is about time Procurement _____ the supplier. (use called)

05 I would sooner your team _____ the appendix. (use shortened)

06 The director behaves as though she _____ every answer. (use knew)

07 It is time Finance _____ the duplicate charge. (use removed)

08 I would rather the agency _____ within scope. (use stayed)

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING ○ | 2 · FILL-IN ○ | 3 · CORRECT ○ | 4 · WRITE ○

BRICK 3 · CORRECT THE DISTANCE FORM · APPROX. 7 MIN ●●○

Each sentence contains one targeted form error. Follow the English cue and change only the named part.

01 It is high time Legal reviews the annex. (change "reviews" to "reviewed")

02 The chair would rather Petra would lower the volume. (change "would lower" to "lowered")

03 She speaks as if she would manage both firms. (change "would manage" to "managed")

04 It is about time that we approve the minutes. (replace "that we approve" with "we approved")

05 I would sooner the vendor sends one invoice. (change "sends" to "sent")

06 Mara answers as if she would control the hiring process. (change "would control" to "controlled")

BRICK 4 · WRITE DIPLOMATICALLY · APPROX. 8 MIN ●●●

Write one English sentence for each prompt. Use the past form for present distance, not for real past time.

01 Deadline: use it is high time to say a decision is overdue now.

02 Confidentiality: use would rather to say what a colleague should do now.

03 Behaviour: use as if for a manager who displays more control than he has.

04 Scope: use would sooner for a diplomatic preference about the next draft.

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I can tell whether a past form marks real time or present distance.
- ☐ I move the form one step back after it is time.
- ☐ I avoid an extra would after would rather about others.
- ☐ I form unreal comparisons with as if or as though without would.

Still unsure? Mark the signal, intended time, and verb form first, then try the sheet again.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 We amended the licence last Monday
Actually past: last Monday states the time.

02 Nora preferred the blue mock-up yesterday
Actually past: yesterday states the time.

03 The analyst recalled every old figure
Actually past: recalled describes earlier memory.

04 The board left after the vote
Actually past: left reports an earlier action.

05 They priced the service in June
Actually past: in June states the time.

06 It is high time directors responded
Present but distanced: the response is overdue now.

07 I would rather Omar checked the annex
Present but distanced: the preference applies now.

08 Lena speaks as if she led the division
Present but distanced: the comparison is unreal now.

09 It is about time Finance changed suppliers
Present but distanced: the change is due now.

10 I would sooner they reduced the audience
Present but distanced: the preference applies now.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 It is high time the committee **elected** a chair.
One form back: present pressure uses past form.

02 I would rather Marta **shared** the revised forecast.
Preference about another: shared moves one form back.

03 The intern talks as if he **ran** the project.
Unreal comparison: ran creates present distance.

04 It is about time Procurement **called** the supplier.
One form back: the call is due.

05 I would sooner your team **shortened** the appendix.
Preference about another: shortened moves one form back.

06 The director behaves as though she **knew** every answer.
Unreal comparison: knew marks knowledge as unreal.

07 It is time Finance **removed** the duplicate charge.
One form back: the correction is due.

08 I would rather the agency **stayed** within scope.
Preference about another: stayed moves one form back.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 It is high time Legal **reviewed** the annex.
Present pressure requires one form back.

02 The chair would rather Petra **lowered** the volume.
Would rather takes no second would here.

03 She speaks as if she **managed** both firms.
As if takes no would here.

04 It is about time **we approved** the minutes.
About time leads directly to one form back.

05 I would sooner the vendor **sent** one invoice.
Would sooner uses one form back here.

06 Mara answers as if she **controlled** the hiring process.
As if takes no extra would here.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ if the signal fits and the past form clearly expresses present distance rather than real past time.

01 It is high time our steering group chose a direction.
High time marks the decision as overdue.

02 I would rather Elise stored the file securely.
The past form carries the present preference.

03 The consultant talks as if every deadline depended on her.
As if marks the dependency as unreal.

04 I would sooner the designers simplified the final screen.
Would sooner frames a present preference.

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