

# The history of Venice

ESL Worksheet | listening & second conditional  
A2+/B1 | time: around 60 min



## Warm-up

1. What is your favourite city? Why?
2. What makes a city interesting for tourists?
3. Would you rather visit a modern city or a historical city? Why?
4. What are the advantages of tourism for a city? What problems can tourism cause?
5. Have you ever visited a place that was too crowded?

## A bit of grammar

### When do we use the Second Conditional?

We use the Second Conditional to talk about:

- imaginary situations
- unlikely situations
- hypothetical situations in the present or future

### Structure

If + Past Simple, would + infinitive

### Examples:

If I lived in Venice, I would travel by boat.

If Venice had fewer tourists, it would be quieter.

If I were rich, I would buy a house in Italy.

### What Would You Do If...?

1. What would you do if you had to build a home in a dangerous place?
2. What would you do if you couldn't grow your own food?
3. What would you do if your city flooded every year?
4. What would you do if you had to travel everywhere by boat?
5. What would you do if your job depended on trade with other countries?
6. What would you do if thousands of tourists visited your town every day?
7. What would you do if the sea threatened your home?

# The history of Venice

## Vocabulary 1

Match the words and the definitions.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. invader - <b>B</b>     | A. depending on something for support              |
| 2. lagoon - <b>D</b>      | B. a person or army that enters a country by force |
| 3. foundation - <b>H</b>  | C. to put something in danger                      |
| 4. merchant - <b>F</b>    | D. a shallow area of water separated from the sea  |
| 5. trade route - <b>G</b> | E. to become less important or successful          |
| 6. decline - <b>E</b>     | F. a person who buys and sells goods               |
| 7. rely on - <b>A</b>     | G. a path used for buying and selling goods        |
| 8. threaten - <b>C</b>    | H. a base that supports a building                 |

## Vocabulary 2

Practise the new words!

1. Why do people sometimes run away from **invaders**?
2. Would you like to live near a **lagoon**? Why or why not?
3. What products do **merchants** sell today?
4. Why were **trade routes** important in history?
5. Can a city recover after a **decline**?
6. What things do modern cities **rely on**?
7. What **threatens** historical places today?

## Before we listen

Do you know anything about the history of Venice? What do you expect to hear?



# The history of Venice



## Listening - The history of Venice

Put the sentences in the correct order.

A	7	Venetian merchants travelled across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East.
B	6	Over time, Venice became an important trading centre.
C	11	Today, Venice faces new challenges. Rising sea levels, flooding, and large numbers of tourists threaten the city.
D	1	Venice began more than 1,500 years ago.
E	2	When the Lombards invaded northern Italy, many people escaped to small islands in a lagoon on the Adriatic coast.
F	10	In modern times, Venice has relied heavily on tourism. Millions of visitors come every year to admire its canals, bridges, and architecture.
G	12	People continue to search for ways to protect this unique place for future generations.
H	8	The city grew rich through trade and became famous for its ships, beautiful buildings, and glassmaking industry on the island of Murano.
I	3	They hoped the shallow water would protect them from attack.
J	5	To create strong foundations, workers drove thousands of wooden poles deep into the mud. Many of these foundations still support Venice today.
K	9	Later, new trade routes reduced Venice's importance, and the city slowly declined.
L	4	Life was difficult at first. People could not easily grow food, and they had to build homes in wet conditions.

# The history of Venice



## Comprehension 1

### Put the events in order

- B. People escaped from the Lombards.
- D. Workers built foundations with wooden poles.
- A. Venice became a powerful trading city.
- C. Venice became famous for glassmaking.
- E. New trade routes reduced Venice's importance.
- F. Tourism became very important.
- G. Venice faces environmental problems today.

## Comprehension 2

### True or false?

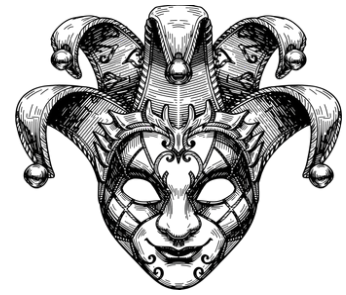
- 1. Venice was founded after people escaped from the Lombards. **T**
- 2. Venice was built on a mountain. **F**
- 3. Wooden poles were used to create strong foundations. **T**
- 4. Venice became rich through farming. **F**
- 5. Murano became famous for glassmaking. **T**
- 6. Tourism is not important to Venice today. **F**
- 7. Rising sea levels are one of Venice's current problems. **T**

## Comprehension 3

### Complete the sentences, use the correct form of the word in brackets.

- 1. Venice was built in a **LAGOON** because it offered protection. (LAGOON)
- 2. Many people escaped from the **INVADERS** who attacked northern Italy. (INVADE)
- 3. Wooden poles created strong **FOUNDATIONS** for the buildings. (FOUND)
- 4. Venetian **MERCHANTS** travelled across many parts of the world. (MERCHANT)
- 5. New trade routes caused the city's **DECLINE**. (DECLINE)
- 6. Venice is **THREATENED** by rising sea levels and flooding. (THREAT)
- 7. The city has become highly **RELIANT** on tourism. (RELY)

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## Back to grammar!

**Make sentences using the Second Conditional.**

Example

lagoon

→ If I was running away from invaders, I wouldn't build a city in a lagoon.

Prompts

1. wooden poles
2. flooding
3. merchants
4. glassmaking
5. canals
6. tourism
7. sea levels
8. islands
9. trade routes
10. invaders

## Let's talk!

### Protecting Venice

1. What can be done to protect Venice from flooding?
2. Should governments spend money protecting historical cities? Why?
3. What rules could help reduce the negative effects of tourism?
4. How can tourists behave responsibly in historical places?

### Architecture

1. What do you think makes Venetian architecture special?
2. Would you like to live in a city with no cars? Why or why not?
3. Which historical building would you most like to visit?

### Historical places around the world

1. Do you know any cities with unusual architecture?
2. Which historical city would you most like to visit?
3. What historical places are famous in your country?
4. How important is it to preserve historical buildings for future generations?

# The history of Venice



## Transcript

Venice began more than 1,500 years ago. When the Lombards invaded northern Italy, many people escaped to small islands in a lagoon on the Adriatic coast. They hoped the shallow water would protect them from attack.

Life was difficult at first. People could not easily grow food, and they had to build homes in wet conditions. To create strong foundations, workers drove thousands of wooden poles deep into the mud. Many of these foundations still support Venice today.

Over time, Venice became an important trading centre. Venetian merchants travelled across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The city grew rich through trade and became famous for its ships, beautiful buildings, and glassmaking industry on the island of Murano.

Later, new trade routes reduced Venice's importance, and the city slowly declined. In modern times, Venice has relied heavily on tourism. Millions of visitors come every year to admire its canals, bridges, and architecture.

Today, Venice faces new challenges. Rising sea levels, flooding, and large numbers of tourists threaten the city. People continue to search for ways to protect this unique place for future generations.

