Introduction to Conditionals

1) If he tries, he will succeed.  
   idea: present (real)  
   (when he tries)

2) If he tried, he would succeed.  
   (now)  
   idea: present (unreal)  
   (he doesn’t try)

3) If he tried, he would have succeeded.  
   (yesterday)  
   Idea: past (unreal)  
   (he didn’t try)

Notes:  
   a) You may also use could or might instead of would,  
      (depending on the meaning you want).
   
   b) Don’t use will, would, would have on both sides; this usually occurs in  
      informal speech. To some, this is never acceptable.
   
   c) You can put the if part either first or second.
   
   d) The verb “be” never has “was:”  
      If I WERE  
      you were  
      HE WERE  
      SHE WERE  
      we were  
      they were

Match the following sentences:

If I had time,  
If I had time,  
If I had time,  
If they find the money,  
If they had found the money,  
If they found the money,  
If she changes her mind,  
If she changed her mind,  
If she had changed her mind,  
I will see her  
I would have seen her  
I would see her  
I will get it  
I would get it  
I would have gotten it  

I will go.  
I would have gone.  
I would go.  
they would have been rich.  
they would be rich.  
they will be rich.  
she would be happier.  
she would have been happier.  
she will be happier.  
if I get time off.  
if I got time off.  
if I had gotten time off.  
if it had fit.  
if it fits.  
if it fit.