Health for the world?

New Internationalist Easier English
Ready Upper-Intermediate Lesson
This lesson:

Speaking: discussion
Vocabulary: categorise
Reading: research
Grammar focus: conditionals
Listening: answer questions
Writing: a formal letter
Discuss these questions:

1. How good is healthcare in the world today? And in your country/countries?
2. How does inequality affect health?
3. Which countries have the best healthcare?
4. What can we do to improve health and healthcare in the world?
Words and phrases: are these related to **health problems or solutions**?

- health insurance
- financial crisis
- corruption
- majority world
- life expectancy
- vaccination
- pharmaceutical companies
- IMF debt
- disease prevention
- indigenous people
Read to find out:

easy: http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Bad_medicine

difficult: http://www.newint.org/features/2012/11/01/healthcare-keynote/
Grammar focus: match these half sentences

1) If Leela feels ill, ...
2) If she is too tired or ill to work, ...
3) The hospital gets subsidies from the government
4) But Indians will only believe this ...
5) Now people are talking again about healthcare for all – ..
6) Sachs says that if we had a minimal healthcare package, ..
7) But it would be more possible ..

a) if it starts to happen.
b) it would cost around $50 – 60 for each person for a year.
c) she asks one of Preeti’s children for a paracetamol.
d) if earnings were higher and more equal.
f) her son takes her to a doctor for the poor.
g) as if it were a new idea.
h) if they promise to keep a few beds for the poor.
Now match the completed sentences to these conditional structures:

Zero conditional (facts, if=when):
If + present tense, + present tense

1st conditional (future possibility /choices):
If + present tense, + future simple (will + infinitive)

2nd conditional (improbability / impossibility):
If + past tense, + conditional tense (would + infinitive)

(there are other conditionals too, of course)
In pairs, complete these sentences with information from the text:

1) If doctors told poor people to get treatment,...

2) If poor people have to pay for healthcare,..

3) If the Indian government spent more money on healthcare than on arms, ....

4) If people get stressed by not feeling they are part of society, ..

5) If societies were more equal, ...
In the text, they talk about healthcare in Cuba – discuss possible answers to these questions:

1. What is so good about healthcare in Cuba?
2. How does Cuba have money for this healthcare?
3. Do some people (the elite) get better (preferential) treatment?
4. What difficulties / challenges does healthcare in Cuba still have?
Now listen to find the answers:

http://www.newint.org/blog/radio-ni/2012/10/30/podcast-john-kirk-cuba-healthcare/
Writing:

In groups, write a formal letter to the health minister in your government:

- use some of the phrases we categorized
- use some conditional sentences
- use some ideas from the reading
- use some ideas from the listening
- proof-read the letter carefully