

29 Mixed conditionals

In addition to all the tense variations that we can use in first, second and third conditionals, it is also possible to mix conditionals so that, for example, the *if* clause uses a verb form used in the first conditional and the main clause uses a verb form used in the third conditional. The context defines the meaning. The most common mixed conditional is:

3rd	2nd
<i>if</i> + past perfect	<i>would/could/might</i> + infinitive

Examples of mixed conditionals

3rd	2nd
If I had worked harder at university,	I would have a degree now.
1st	2nd
If you come to the party tomorrow,	I wouldn't bring Mike with you.
2nd	3rd
If she loved him,	she would have stayed with him.

Practice

29 Match the clauses and write the mixed conditional sentences in your notebook.

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| <p>1 If you had told me about this problem earlier,</p> <p>2 If you were a more sensitive person,</p> <p>3 If they don't contact you soon,</p> <p>4 If he hadn't died so young,</p> <p>5 If he didn't work so hard all the time,</p> <p>6 If the train hadn't been delayed,</p> <p>7 If he was feeling ill this morning,</p> <p>8 If you're coming with us,</p> <p>9 If I really wanted to have children,</p> <p>10 If you had worked harder last month,</p> | <p>A he probably won't be at the meeting.</p> <p>B you could always ring them up.</p> <p>C his wife would never have left him.</p> <p>D you wouldn't have said that to her.</p> <p>E I would have had them by now.</p> <p>F everything would be all right now.</p> <p>G would you hurry up and get ready?</p> <p>H you wouldn't be so busy this month.</p> <p>I we would be there by now.</p> <p>J I'm sure he'd be a famous musician by now.</p> |
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Example:

1F – *If you had told me about this problem earlier, everything would be all right now.*