



Presentation

Second conditional

Use the second conditional to describe a situation in the present or future. It suggests that the situation and result are unreal or imagined.

if	past simple	would + infinitive
If	I had more time,	I'd be able to do everything.

Third conditional

Use the third conditional to describe an unreal or imagined situation and result in the past.

if	past perfect	would have + past participle
If	I'd had more time,	I would have finished all my work.

Mixed conditionals

You can also combine second and third conditionals to make mixed conditionals.

Use second conditional + third conditional to describe an unreal situation in the present with an imagined result in the past:

Second conditional (past simple)	Third conditional (would have + past participle)
If I had some help,	I'd have finished everything.

Use third conditional + second conditional to describe an unreal situation in the past with an imagined result in the present.

Third conditional (past perfect)	Second conditional (would + infinitive)
If I'd said 'no' more often,	I wouldn't have so much work now.

Exercises

- 1  Complete these dialogues with the second conditional. Use the past simple or *would*. Then listen and check.

- 1 A: If you are coming tonight, can you bring your car?
B: Sorry, if I ¹ (have) it, I ² (bring) it, but I've lent it to Zara.
- 2 A: What ³ (you/do), if you ⁴ (be) me?
B: I think I ⁵ (accept) the job, but only if they ⁶ (offer) to give me a pay rise!
- 3 A: If you know where he is, please tell me.
B: But I don't know! Honestly, if I ⁷ (know) where he ⁸ (be), you ⁹ (be) the first person I'd tell.

- 2 Choose the correct verb form to make sentences with the second or third conditional.

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| 1 If I'd known you were so busy, I <i>would help</i> / <i>would have helped</i> you. | 5 They'd make / <i>would have made</i> dinner if you asked them. |
| 2 If my watch <i>worked</i> / <i>had worked</i> , I'd tell you the correct time! | 6 If you <i>were</i> / <i>'d been</i> at the lesson last night you would have understood how to do the homework. |
| 3 We <i>wouldn't miss</i> / <i>wouldn't have missed</i> the beginning of the film if there hadn't been a strike on the trains! | 7 If Peter <i>found out</i> / <i>had found out</i> about our little secret, he would have been very angry. |
| 4 I <i>would say</i> / <i>'d have said</i> hello if I'd seen you. | 8 You <i>wouldn't have known</i> if I <i>didn't tell</i> / <i>hadn't told</i> you. |

- 3 Read the situations, then complete the sentences using the past simple, past perfect or *would* form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 John went to a job interview, but he didn't get the job because he was too shy.
If he (be) so shy, I'm sure he (get) the job.
- 2 My boss was looking for an assistant who can speak Japanese. I don't speak Japanese, so I didn't apply for the job.
I (apply) for the job if I (speak) Japanese.
- 3 My brother needed a lift to the airport, but I don't have a car.
If I (have) a car, I (give) him a lift to the airport.
- 4 I passed my exams, so my parents bought me a new computer.
If I (not pass) my exams, I (still / use) my old computer.
- 5 You were out late last night. You're feeling very tired this morning.
If you (go) to bed early, you (not / feel) so tired now.
- 6 You didn't listen to my advice. Now you're in trouble.
If you (listen) to my advice, you (not / be) in trouble.

- 4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.

- 1 If I'd been born ten years earlier, I'd/I wouldn't
2 If I knew how to, I'd/I wouldn't have
3 If I hadn't yesterday, I'd/I wouldn't be today.