The third conditional is used to express the past consequence of an unrealistic action or situation in the past.

EXAMPLE

If he had studied harder, he would have passed the exam.

FORM

To write a sentence in the second conditional, we use,

○ **If + past perfect - would/wouldn't have + past participle.**
Example: If you had told me about the test, I would have come.

○ **Would/wouldn't have + past participle - if + past perfect.**
Example: I would have come to the meeting if you had told me.

The word would is often contracted to 'd by native speakers. It's also acceptable to use this in informal writing. And in speech, it's common to contract have to 've in the third conditional.

We use the **past perfect** in the **if**-clause of a third conditional sentence to talk about an imaginary or hypothetical situation in the past, and we use **would have, could have, or might have** + **past participle** in the **main clause** to talk about the result or consequence of that imaginary situation.

PRACTICE

IF I HAD KNOWN...

Write a paragraph starting with the phrase "If I had known" to talk about all the things you would have done If you had known a certain thing.

_____
_____
_____
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_____

Choose the correct form to make third conditional sentences.

1. If you had trained more, you _____ so easily.

2. We wouldn't have spent all the money if you _____on going to that boutique.

3. If you had told me that you were having problems, I _____helped you.

4. If I _____ that she was in town, I would have called her.

5. If she had offered a better price for the car, I _____ it.

6. There wouldn't have been so many problems if they _____ the race a bit better.

7. We _____ lost if you had asked for directions.

8. We would never have met if you _____ us to each other at that party.

9. If she had embarrassed me in front of all my friends, I _____ her for ever.

10. I _____ her life if I had paid more attention.

1. Check your understanding: matching
Match the two sentence halves and write a–g next to the numbers 1–7.

1........	I wouldn't have overslept	a.	if you'd asked.
2........	If she had gone to bed earlier,	b.	you wouldn't have been so stressed at the last minute.
3........	I could have lent you the money	c.	she wouldn't have been so tired.
4........	They wouldn't have found out	d.	if you had studied medicine.
5........	You could have been a doctor	e.	if my alarm clock had gone off.
6........	If you'd been more organised,	f.	they wouldn't have had so many problems.
7........	If they'd taken my advice,	g.	if you hadn't told them.

2. Check your grammar: word 2 word
Write the words in the correct order to make sentences.

1. have   told me.   would   if   remembered   I   you'd

....

2. would   had   have   revised more,   passed the exam.   she   If she

....

3. the train   If we   have   hadn't missed   we would   arrived on time.

....

4. If   been there   have   met him.   you'd   could   you

....

5. I   If   could   have   I'd known   helped.

....

6. if   could   have   gone   wanted to.   You   you'd

....

Discussion
If you had been born a boy/girl, how would your life have been different?