Third conditional

Introduction

David: *How was your camping holiday?*

Mike: *Well, it **would have** been all right if it **hadn't rained** all the time.*

Harriet: *If we'd **gone** two weeks earlier, we'd **have** had better weather.*

If it hadn't rained and *if we'd gone two weeks earlier* are imaginary situations in the past. It did rain, and they didn't go two weeks earlier.

▪ **The use of type 3**
→ We use the third conditional to talk about imaginary or hypothetical situations in the past. This sometimes means criticizing people or pointing out their mistakes.
If you'd been a bit more careful, you wouldn't have cut yourself.
If Matthew had set his alarm clock, he wouldn't have overslept.

→ We can also use this structure to express regret about the past.
If I hadn't fallen ill and missed the interview, I might have got the job.

▪ **Pattern**
→ *if...* + past perfect... + *would have* + past participle.

Use the following prompts 1-8 to make complete sentences using the Third Conditional.

1 If I_____(not/work) at that company for so long, I
_____ (pursue) so many other options.

2 If she _____ (leave) her job, maybe she _____ (be)
happier.

3 If we _____ (not/buy) that flat, we _____ (have more)
exotic holidays.

4 If I _____ (not/go) to university, I _____ (get) a job.

5 If you _____ (take up) running, you _____ (be) fitter!

6 If they _____ (retire) earlier, they _____ (not/have)
enough money to live on.

7 If I _____ (stay) in France, I _____ (speak) good
French by now.

8 If you _____ (do) an art course, you _____ (be)
brilliant and selling lots of paintings by now!