Third Conditional Practice

The third conditional is used to talk about unreal or impossible situations in the past.

Third conditional sentences consist of two clauses, an *if* + *past perfect* clause and a *would* + *present perfect* clause.

A. Complete the third conditional sentences with the verbs in brackets.

1. If he ..... (know) they would be at the party, he ..... (wear) something smarter.
2. If I ..... (meet) her at a different time, we ..... (get) married.
3. He ..... (not join) the army if his parents ..... (not send) him to cadet school.
4. If she ..... (notice) him at the event, she ..... (invite) him to join our table.
5. We ..... (not find) your house if we ..... (not walk) down that street.
6. I ..... (prepare) more information if they ..... (tell) me the details a week ago.
7. If I ..... (earn) more money from that job, I ..... (not quit).
8. He ..... (not lose) his job if he ..... (not argue) with the client.
9. If I ..... (travel) to a few more countries, I ..... (have) more experience with different cultures.
10. If she ..... (go) to university, she ..... (gain) less work experience.

B. Reorder the words to make third conditional sentences starting with *If*.

1. a / received / he / grade / had / more / better / studied / have / would / he

If .....

2. match / have / they / famous / they / would / had / become / the / won

If .....

3. would / water / still / forgotten / be / to / I / plant / it / alive / hadn't / the

If .....

4. have / she / completed / wouldn't / job / the / the / hadn't / she / got / course

If .....

5. they / better / have / nicer / Max / had / her / relationship / had / to / would / a / been

If .....

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C. Read the story about Margaret's bad day.

Margaret woke up late, ate a slice of toast and threw on her clothes before running to the bus stop. She had to be at a business meeting by 9:30 a.m. As she turned the corner, she saw the bus drive past. She ran after the bus, but it was too late.

She booked a car on her app and only realised they had doubled the fare after she was halfway there. She rushed into the meeting only a few minutes late, but everyone was staring at her. She had put her cardigan on inside out. The meeting went well, but she wished she had prepared a little more. She'd had a busy week.

After the meeting, Margaret walked into the café next door and realised she had left her purse at home. She had some change but it wasn't enough to buy a coffee and a sandwich, so she walked to a cheaper café 15 minutes away. When she arrived, she found that they had run out of coffee beans so she could only get a tea.

Margaret bought a cup of green tea and strolled back to the office. On the way, it started raining and she got completely soaked because she didn't have an umbrella. She decided to wait in the nearest shop until the rain passed. By the time she got back to work, her boss was very unhappy. "I am not impressed by your lack of reliability," he remarked.

Margaret sighed and wondered how her day would have turned out if she hadn't missed her bus.

D. Now, write third conditional sentences about the story using the prompts.

1. wake up late — miss the bus

.....

2. put her cardigan on inside out — throw on her clothes

.....

3. prepare more — have a busy week

.....

4. buy a sandwich — remember her purse

.....

5. have a coffee — run out of coffee beans

.....

6. get wet — take her umbrella

.....

7. her boss is unhappy — be more reliable

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