

▶ Grammar in context

GRAMMAR GUIDE

Third conditional

- 1 Look at these sentences and answer the questions.**
- If I **had lived** closer to the sea, I **would have begun** surfing much earlier.
 - If I **hadn't passed** my exams, they **wouldn't have let** me do the course.
- How do we make third conditional sentences?
 - Do we use the third conditional for imaginary situations in the present or the past?

GRAMMAR REFERENCE ▶ page 80

2 Complete the sentences about these past situations using the third conditional.

- If I/know how to play tennis properly/I/not injure/ myself last week.
If I
- She/not catch a cold/if/she/not go running in the rain.
She
- The stadium/be full/if/the match/be important.
The stadium
- She/win the race/if/she/not twist her ankle.
She
- If/we/drink water before the race/we/not be so thirsty.
If
- If/the sun/shine/wo/wim in the sea.
If
- If/he/need extra vitamins/he/take them.
If
- My dad/not keep fit/if/not enjoy doing sport.
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Mixed conditional

- 3 Look at these sentences and answer the questions.**
- If I **had started** to swim when I was younger, I **would be** a much better swimmer now.
 - If I **didn't like** Pilates, I **would have stopped** a long time ago.
- Are mixed conditionals a mixture of first and second conditionals, or second and third conditionals?
 - Which sentence describes an imaginary past situation and its present consequence?
 - Which sentence describes an imaginary present situation and its past consequence?

GRAMMAR REFERENCE ▶ page 80

4 Which sentence endings are possible?

There may be more than one possible answer. How is the meaning of each sentence different?

- I would have gone to see the concert if
 - I like opera.
 - I liked opera.
 - I had liked the opera.
- She would be ill now if
 - she doesn't take the medicine.
 - she didn't take the medicine.
 - she hadn't taken the medicine.
- If I'd practised ten hours a day
 - I am a great tennis player.
 - I would be a great tennis player.
 - I would have been a great tennis player.
- If penicillin didn't exist
 - many people will die.
 - many people would die.
 - many people would have died.
- I wouldn't be happy if
 - you lie to me.
 - you lied to me.
 - you had lied to me.

5 Look at the situations and complete the sentences using mixed conditionals.

- Becky loves gymnastics so she joined a club.
If Becky didn't love gymnastics,
- Alice spent lots of time studying and now she's a doctor.
If Alice
- Their new film is great because they spent years making it.
If they
- They don't know where the key is. That's why they haven't opened the door.
If they
- They didn't speak to the famous actor because they can't speak English.
If they
- I haven't got anything for you to eat because I didn't know you were coming.
If I
- Liam has got a new mobile phone because he lost his old one.
Liam
- I'm doing my homework now because I didn't remember to do it yesterday.
If I