



Third conditional

if + past perfect simple, would + have + past participle

Form

Use

Unreal situations in the past and their unreal past results

Example

If the chemist **had been open, I **would have bought** some aspirin.**
(= The chemist wasn't open, so I didn't buy any aspirin.)

If I **hadn't listened to you, I **would have cooked** the chicken for too long.**
(= I listened to you, so I didn't cook the chicken for too long.)

If he **had seen the doctor, he **wouldn't have been** ill for such a long time.**
(= He didn't see the doctor, so he was ill for a long time.)

If you **hadn't eaten a giant pizza, you **wouldn't have been** sick!**
(= You ate a giant pizza, so you were sick.)

Helpful hints

We can also use **could** and **might** instead of **would**, depending on the meaning.

✓ **If you **had eaten** a giant pizza, you **might** have been sick!**
(= It's possible, but not certain, that you would have been sick.)

✓ **If Mary **had told** me she **was coming**, I **could** have cooked a nice meal.**
(= I would have been able to cook a nice meal.)

Watch out!

- The third conditional is the only conditional that refers to the past.
✓ **If I **had had** a headache, I **would have taken** an aspirin.** (= in the past)
- We use past simple in the second conditional, but that does **not** refer to the past.
✓ **If I **had** a headache, I **would take** an aspirin.** (= now or generally)
- For more information on the second conditional, see Unit 28.

A Circle the correct answer.

If Charles had had enough money, he'd have bought the CD.

1 Did Charles have enough money?
2 Did he buy the CD?

Yes / No
Yes / No

Paul wouldn't have made a mistake if he'd listened to Lee.

7 Did Paul make a mistake?
8 Did Paul listen to Lee?

Yes / No
Yes / No

Cilla would have called Andrea if she'd taken her mobile with her.

3 Did Cilla call Andrea?
4 Did she take her mobile with her?

Yes / No
Yes / No

Jo wouldn't have gone to the party if she hadn't been invited.

9 Did Jo go to the party?
10 Was Jo invited to the party?

Yes / No
Yes / No

If we hadn't been late, we'd have seen the start of the film.

5 Were they late?
6 Did they see the start of the film?

Yes / No
Yes / No

Tom would have forgotten his keys if Lisa hadn't reminded him.

11 Did Tom forget his keys?
12 Did Lisa remind him about his keys?

Yes / No
Yes / No

B Complete using the correct form of the words in brackets.

1 If you (tell) me you were going to the beach, I'd have come with you.
2 If Dan had missed the plane, he (be) very annoyed.
3 I'd have got you a present if I (know) it was your birthday.
4 We (not / get) lost if we'd taken a map with us.
5 If the car (not / break down), I wouldn't have been late.
6 If you (not / help) me, I wouldn't have finished in time.
7 If Baz (not / show) you what to do, what (you / do)?

C Complete each second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Write between two and five words.

1 It wasn't cold, so we didn't light a fire.
If it cold, we'd have lit a fire.
2 John didn't come, so we didn't do any painting.
If John , we'd have done some painting.
3 Claire didn't buy any clothes because she didn't see anything she liked.
Claire some clothes if she'd seen something she liked.
4 The audience laughed because the joke was very funny.
If the joke very funny, the audience wouldn't have laughed.
5 We decided to leave because it was really noisy.
We to leave if it hadn't been really noisy.

D Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs in the box. You may have to use some negative forms.



break • fall over • look • pick up • reply • see • stood

- 1 If Kevin hadn't just got a text message, he at his mobile phone.
- 2 If he hadn't looked at his mobile, he the banana skin.
- 3 If someone the banana skin earlier, it wouldn't have been there.
- 4 If Kevin had seen the banana skin, he on it.
- 5 If he hadn't stood on it, he
- 6 If he hadn't fallen over, he his mobile.
- 7 If he hadn't broken his mobile, he to the text message.

E Read the story and complete the sentences.

Vida loved to keep fit. Whenever she could, she went to the gym after work. But one evening, Vida got home late. 'It's too late to go to the gym now,' she said to herself. 'I'll just watch TV instead.'

She made herself a nice, fresh, healthy salad and sat down in front of the TV. Suddenly, she saw something on TV that caught her attention. It was an advert for an exercise bike called the Fitmaster 5000.

'That looks fantastic!' thought Vida. 'I think I'll buy that!'

She phoned the number and ordered the machine. It came the next day.

It was much bigger than it looked on TV, and the only place Vida could put it was at the top of the stairs.

She loved the Fitmaster 5000 so much, though, that from that day on, she only exercised at home. She didn't go to the gym any more. She spent hours every evening on her exercise bike, and every evening she went faster and faster. One evening, she was going so fast that the exercise bike began to move forwards. Before she knew what had happened, she – and the bike – fell down the stairs. All sixteen of them. Right to the bottom. Ouch!

The Fitmaster 5000 was broken, and so was Vida's leg.

'I think that's enough exercise for a while,' thought Vida, as she lay in her hospital bed. 'And that's enough watching adverts on TV too.'

- 1 If Vida had got home earlier,
- 2 If she'd gone to the gym that evening,
- 3 If she hadn't watched TV,
- 4 She wouldn't have bought the Fitmaster 5000
- 5 She wouldn't have put it at the top of the stairs
- 6 She'd have continued going to the gym
- 7 If she hadn't gone so fast,
- 8 If she hadn't fallen down the stairs,