

1. Match the sentence halves

Exercise 1. Match the beginnings (1–8) with the endings (a–h) to make logical Third Conditional sentences about environmental problems.

1. If people had recycled more plastic waste,
2. If humans had not burned so much fossil fuel,
3. If we had protected the rainforests better,
4. If factories had used cleaner technologies earlier,
5. If governments had introduced stricter laws on pollution,
6. If more people had reduced their carbon footprint,
7. If countries had stored nuclear waste safely,
8. If hunters had not killed so many endangered animals,

a) many species of animals would not have become extinct. b) the greenhouse effect would not have become so dangerous. c) there would have been much less pollution in the oceans. d) air quality in big cities would have been much better. e) climate change would not have progressed so quickly. f) we would have saved a lot of natural resources. g) there would have been fewer environmental disasters. h) global warming would have been slowed down significantly.

2. Choose the correct form

Exercise 2. Choose the correct option (a, b or c) to complete each sentence. Use either the **Second Conditional** or the **Third Conditional**.

1. If people _____ more environmentally friendly now, they _____ so much waste every day. a) were / wouldn't produce b) had been / wouldn't produce c) had been / wouldn't have produced
2. If humans _____ so many forests in the past, many animal species _____ extinct today. a) didn't destroy / would become b) hadn't destroyed / would become c) hadn't destroyed / would have become
3. If we _____ renewable energy sources more often, global warming _____ slower. a) used / would slow down b) had used / would slow down c) had used / would have slowed down
4. If factories _____ chemicals into rivers years ago, the water _____ so contaminated now. a) hadn't dumped / wouldn't be b) didn't dump / wouldn't be c) hadn't dumped / wouldn't have been
5. If more countries _____ strict environmental laws right now, the situation _____ much better in the future. a) introduced / would be b) had introduced / would be c) had introduced / would have been
6. If people _____ plastic bags less in the past, our oceans _____ full of plastic today. a) didn't use / wouldn't be b) hadn't used / wouldn't be c) hadn't used / wouldn't have been
7. If governments _____ faster against climate change today, we _____ many future disasters. a) acted / would avoid b) had acted / would avoid c) had acted / would have avoided
8. If humans _____ more responsible with fossil fuels in the last century, the greenhouse effect _____ so strong now. a) were / wouldn't be b) had been / wouldn't be c) had been / wouldn't have become

3. Complete the sentences

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use either the **Second Conditional** or the **Third Conditional**.

1. If people (recycle) _____ more now, we (save) _____ a lot of natural resources.
2. If humans (not / cut down) _____ so many trees in the past, the climate (not / change) _____ so dramatically.
3. If we (use) _____ public transport every day, air pollution (be) _____ much lower.
4. If factories (adopt) _____ cleaner technologies years ago, the air in big cities (be) _____ much healthier today.
5. If more people (be) _____ aware of their carbon footprint right now, they (reduce) _____ it significantly.
6. If governments (introduce) _____ stricter laws earlier, many environmental disasters (happen) _____.
7. If we (protect) _____ endangered species better in the past, many animals (still / exist) _____ today.
8. If countries (switch) _____ to renewable energy now, global warming (slow down) _____ noticeably.