



Presentation

Second conditional

Use the second conditional to describe a situation in the present or future. It suggests that the situation and result are unreal or imagined.

if	past simple	would + infinitive
<i>If</i>	<i>I had more time,</i>	<i>I'd be able to do everything.</i>

Third conditional

Use the third conditional to describe an unreal or imagined situation and result in the past.

if	past perfect	would have + past participle
<i>If</i>	<i>I'd had more time,</i>	<i>I would have finished all my work.</i>

Mixed conditionals

You can also combine second and third conditionals to make mixed conditionals.

Use second conditional + third conditional to describe an unreal situation in the present with an imagined result in the past:

Second conditional (past simple)	Third conditional (would have + past participle)
<i>If I had some help,</i>	<i>I'd have finished everything.</i>

Use third conditional + second conditional to describe an unreal situation in the past with an imagined result in the present.

Third conditional (past perfect)	Second conditional (would + infinitive)
<i>If I'd said 'no' more often,</i>	<i>I wouldn't have so much work now.</i>

Exercises

1  Complete these dialogues with the second conditional. Use the past simple or *would*. Then listen and check.

- 1 A: If you are coming tonight, can you bring your car?
B: Sorry, if I ¹ (have) it, I ² (bring) it, but I've lent it to Zara.
- 2 A: What ³ (you/do), if you ⁴ (be) me?
B: I think I ⁵ (accept) the job, but only if they ⁶ (offer) to give me a pay rise!
- 3 A: If you know where he is, please tell me.
B: But I don't know! Honestly, if I ⁷ (know) where he ⁸ (be), you ⁹ (be) the first person I'd tell.

2 Choose the correct verb form to make sentences with the second or third conditional.

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| 1 If I'd known you were so busy, I <i>would help</i> / <i>would have helped</i> you. | 5 They'd <i>make</i> / <i>would have made</i> dinner if you asked them. |
| 2 If my watch <i>worked</i> / <i>had worked</i> , I'd tell you the correct time! | 6 If you <i>were</i> / <i>'d been</i> at the lesson last night you would have understood how to do the homework. |
| 3 We <i>wouldn't miss</i> / <i>wouldn't have missed</i> the beginning of the film if there hadn't been a strike on the trains! | 7 If Peter <i>found out</i> / <i>had found out</i> about our little secret, he would have been very angry. |
| 4 I <i>would say</i> / <i>'d have said</i> hello if I'd seen you. | 8 You <i>wouldn't have known</i> if I <i>didn't tell</i> / <i>hadn't told</i> you. |

3 Read the situations, then complete the sentences using the past simple, past perfect or *would* form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 John went to a job interview, but he didn't get the job because he was too shy.
If he (be) so shy, I'm sure he (get) the job.
- 2 My boss was looking for an assistant who can speak Japanese. I don't speak Japanese, so I didn't apply for the job.
I (apply) for the job if I (speak) Japanese.
- 3 My brother needed a lift to the airport, but I don't have a car.
If I (have) a car, I (give) him a lift to the airport.
- 4 I passed my exams, so my parents bought me a new computer.
If I (not pass) my exams, I (still / use) my old computer.
- 5 You were out late last night. You're feeling very tired this morning.
If you (go) to bed early, you (not / feel) so tired now.
- 6 You didn't listen to my advice. Now you're in trouble.
If you (listen) to my advice, you (not / be) in trouble.

4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you.

- 1 If I'd been born ten years earlier, I'd/I wouldn't
- 2 If I knew how to, I'd/I wouldn't have
- 3 If I hadn't yesterday, I'd/I wouldn't be today.