

The third and mixed conditionals

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
B2_1025G_EN

LANGUAGE
English





Goals

- Can form the 3rd conditional and use it accurately in a sentence.
- Can discuss hypothetical situations using a range of conditionals, including mixed conditionals.



What if you had grown up in another country?

What if you had learned to play the tuba?

The third conditional can help you talk about things that **did not happen** in the past.



Preview and warm-up

The **third conditional** describes things that **did not happen in the past**. Like the other conditionals, you have an **if** clause and **would/will clause**.



If I had **slept more**, I **would have been** more energetic at work. I did not sleep more, and I was not energetic. Both of these things did not happen in the past.



Review the zero, first and second conditional

- Each of the conditionals is built with **two linked clauses**.
 - The **zero conditional** is used to **express ideas that are always true**.
 - The **first conditional** is used to **discuss things that are possible or quite likely**.
 - The **second conditional** expresses **ideas that are unlikely or impossible**.

Conditional	How it's built	Example	What it expresses
zero	present simple + present simple	If it rains, you get wet.	This fact is always true .
first	present simple + will future	If the weather remains good, I will go for a run during my lunch break.	It is very likely that this will happen.
second	past simple + would + infinitive	If I were a millionaire, I wouldn't need to go to work.	I am not a millionaire, so this is unlikely to happen any time soon.



Review the zero conditional

- The **zero conditional** expresses ideas that are **always true**; when one thing **always** follows another, we use the **zero conditional**.
- You can use it to express **facts** or **rules** and **their consequences**.

Zero conditional

Plants die if they do not get enough water.

When a car runs out of petrol, it stops.

If the temperature of water falls below 0 degrees Celsius, it freezes.

The doors close if you press that red button.





Review the first conditional

- The **first conditional** is used when you want to **express things that are real, likely, or possible**.
- For example, you use it when talking about things that are **almost certainly going to happen** in the future, or about **everyday activities** that will probably happen.

If clause	will clause
If you finish your task early	I'll give you some more work to do.
If you rush your work	it will probably contain a lot of mistakes.
If you include too much information on your slides	people will struggle to follow your presentation.
If I see Jonathan	I'll wish him happy birthday.





Review the second conditional

- Remember that the **second conditional** is used to **express impossible or unlikely ideas, wishes or situations**.
- It can also be used to **give advice**, expressing how things **would be different** if people changed their behaviour.
- It is built with an **if clause** in the **past simple tense** and a **main clause with would + infinitive**.

If	past simple	Would	Infinitive
If I	had more time	I would	learn Japanese.
If you	spent more time on your applications	you would	get more interviews.
If she	could do any job	she would	be a marine biologist.



Using the conditional mood in negotiations

- The **first conditional** and **second conditional** are often used during **negotiations**.
- During **negotiations**, it is important that if you agree to **offer something**, you always **receive something in return**. The **conditional mood** is a good way to structure these kinds of sentences.

- The **first conditional** is used when we are **quite certain** about something:
- **If** you offer me more money, I **will** accept the job.

- The **second conditional** is more **speculative**:
- **If you agreed** to take on another role on the side, then **we would consider** paying you more.



Find the correct answer

1. If you send me your CV today, I _____ look at it straight away.

- a. will b. would c. was d. looked

2. If I _____ anything that should be changed, I will let you know.

- a. saw b. would see c. see d. Had seen

3. If I were you, I _____ a nice suit to the interview.

- a. wore b. would wear c. wear d. where

4. Employers _____ impressed when you wear a suit.

- a. are b. were c. would be d. will be



Review the zero, first and second conditional

You are giving your friend some career advice.
Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. If I _____ you, I _____ my manager for a raise. [be, ask]
2. If you _____ more money, you _____ less stressed. [make, feel].
3. If your boss _____ you better, you _____ your job more. [treat; enjoy]
4. Maybe if you _____ from home sometimes, your boss _____ you less. [work; bother]
5. If your office _____ more parties and social events, maybe it _____ a better environment. [have, be]





What would you do if...? Use the second conditional to answer the following questions.

You could move to any city in the world for one year?

You had the chance to study again at university?

If cash flow wasn't an issue at your company?

You were the CEO of your company?



Practise using the conditional mood in negotiations

You have been offered a promotion by your manager (played by your teacher), but you are not quite happy with the conditions. Come up with 5-10 *if* sentences in the conditional mood to negotiate a better deal. You may wish to consider the following things:

If I had flexible working hours, I would work much more effectively.

salary

bonuses

holidays

flexitime



Practise using the conditional mood in negotiations

Imagine you are an internet service provider. One of your customers wants a cheaper deal for your service. You are willing to negotiate the matter but you need them to agree to some conditions. Using the conditional mood, come up with five conditions your customer must agree to in order to get a discount.

We will consider offering you a discount if...

If you agree to... then we can give you a discount.



Building the third conditional

- The **third conditional** is built with **two clauses**:
 - An **if clause** and the **past perfect**
 - Remember that the **past perfect** consists of **had + past participle**
 - A clause with **would have + past participle**

If	past perfect	would	have + past participle
If I	had rehearsed the speech	I would not	have made that mistake.
If you	had prepared properly for the interview	you would	have got the job.
If she	had worked harder	she would	have been offered a full-time job.
If they	had left earlier	they would	have been on time.



Using the third conditional

- The **third conditional** is used to **describe situations in the past that did not happen** and to **imagine the consequence of the situation**.
- It deals with the question: **How would things have been different if something different had happened?**
- The ***if* clause** **imagines a situation that did not happen**; the main ***would* clause** imagines the **result of that situation**.

- **If we had been on time, we wouldn't have missed the important announcement.**
- Unfortunately, we were late and so we missed it.





Complete the sentences in the third conditional

Complete the following sentences with your own ideas in the third conditional.

1. If I had known my salary would be so low...
2. The presentation would not have been such a disaster if...
3. If you hadn't been so stubborn during the negotiation...
4. If he hadn't been so nervous...
5. If I had taken that module on statistics...
6. If we had had more employees in our company...





Practising the third conditional

Think about your current job situation. How did you get to this point in life? How might your life have been different if you hadn't opted for certain decisions? Share your responses using the third conditional.

If I hadn't had such a great maths teacher in secondary school...

If I had never met...

If I had chosen to study...

If I hadn't come across that advert...



Using other modal verbs in the third conditional

- In addition to **would**, you can also use modal verbs like **could**, **may** and **might** in the **third conditional**.
- This allows you to **express ideas differently**.

Modal verbs in the third conditional

I **might** have been a great architect, if I'd studied architecture.

You **could** have come to an agreement, if you'd had a better attitude!

I **could** have been really rich by now, if I'd bought their stock in 2004.





It would have been nice



- You can use the **third conditional** as a **whole sentence** or you can **express ideas** using only the **would clause**.

It would have...	but
It would have been interesting to attend the networking conference...	but it clashed with another appointment I had.
It would have been nice to see you...	although I understand you had a lot of work.
It would have been excellent for my career if I had accepted the job in Qatar...	but I wasn't willing to leave my friends and family.



You often follow with a clause explaining **why** it was not possible, typically using a connecting word like **but** or **although**.



Mixed conditionals

- What if you'd like to talk about **two different time periods**? What if something in the past **would have had** a real impact on the present?
- In these situations, you would use **mixed conditionals**.

If clause	Would clause
If he had studied more in school...	he would have a better job.
If people had listened to my suggestions...	our sales wouldn't be suffering so much right now.
If you hadn't taken so much time off work...	you would have a higher position in the company right now.

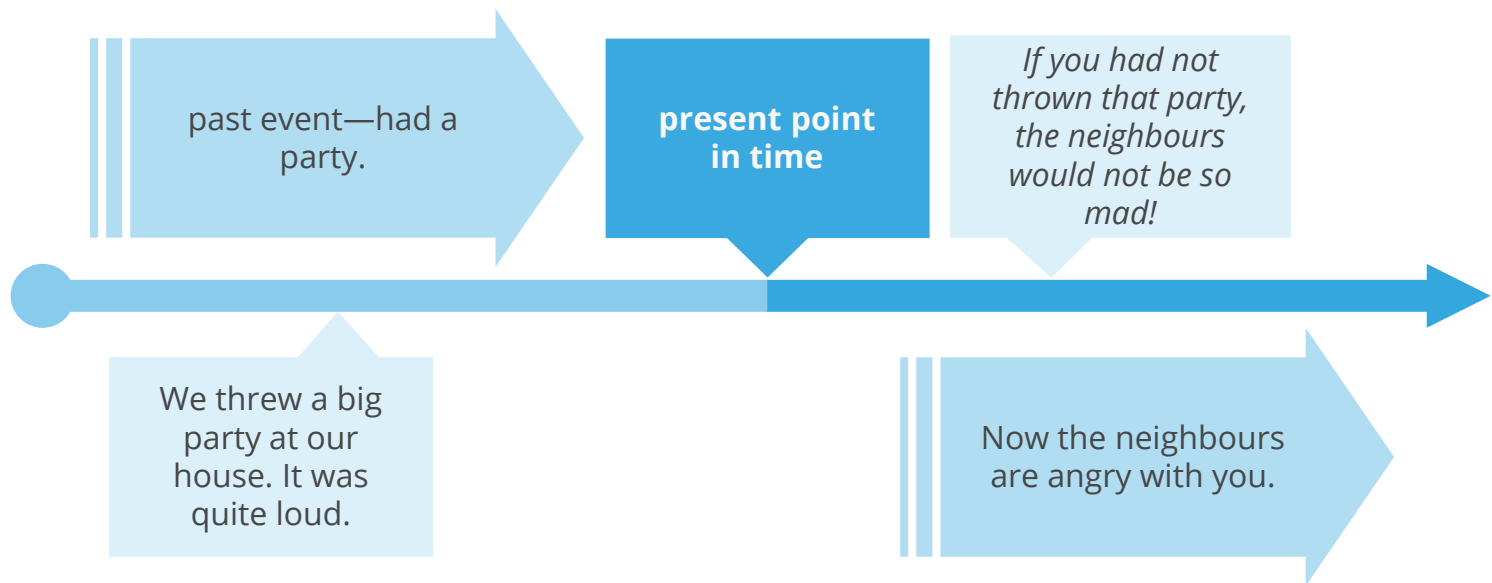


Notice that with these examples, you contrast an event in the past with the **real, present consequence**, like sales suffering.



Mixed third and second conditional

- **Mixing conditionals** allows you to **refer back** to an event that **did** or **did not happen** in the past and link it to a **current consequence**.





Mixed second and third conditionals

- You can also express how **on-going actions** or **conditions** in the **present** are **related** to events in the **past**.
- To do so, you use a **second conditional *if* clause** expressing an **unrealised** or **impossible** situation in the present followed by a **third conditional *would* clause**.

- **If you were a more organised person, you would not have lost your passport and wallet!**
 - Present: you are not organised. You lose things all the time!
 - Impact on the past: you lost your passport and wallet.





Combine the two sentences into a mixed conditional sentence. An example has been provided for you.

1. He didn't take out the rubbish. The house smells so bad now.



If he had taken out the rubbish, the house would not smell so bad.

2. She worked till midnight yesterday. She is so tired now.



3. You didn't listen to my advice. You don't have the job you wanted.



4. I was late for work today. My boss is unhappy with me right now.



5. She fell asleep while baking a cake. The cake is burnt.





Practising the mixed conditional.

Think about an important decision you've made in your professional life. What were the consequences of this decision? How would your current situation be different if you had not made this decision? Share your responses using the mixed conditional.



How could I be better?

Imagine you are telling someone all the ways they could improve. You want to mention how their past choices impact today, and how their current qualities may have impacted the past.

Give advice using the prompts below.



If you were more organised...

If you had done a masters...

If you had listened to my advice...

If you were more relaxed...

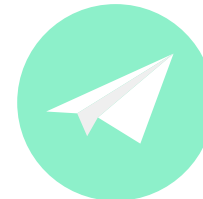


Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no



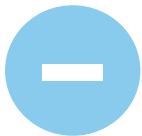


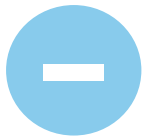
Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?









If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again





Answer key

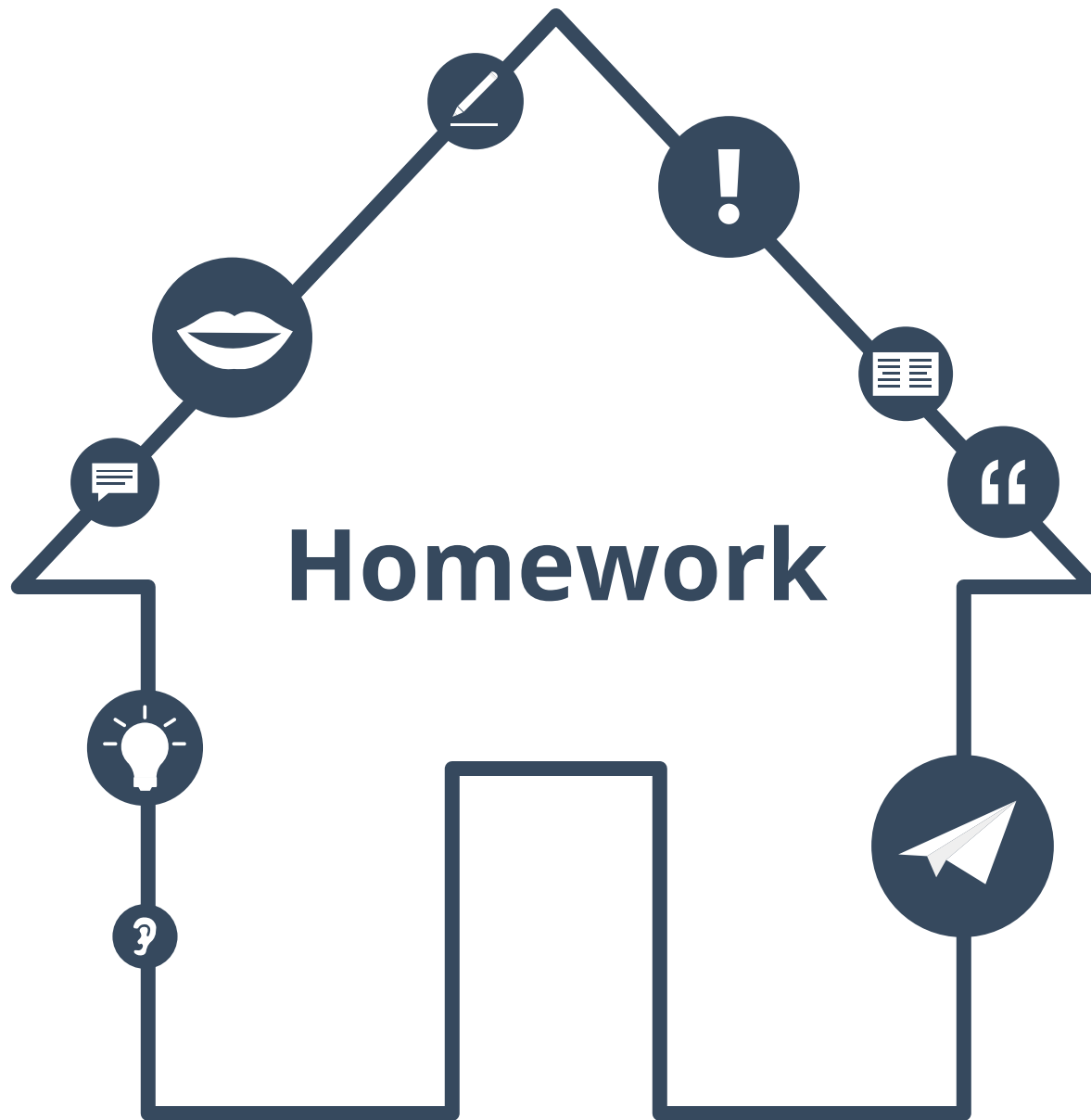
Exercise p. 10
1a, 2c, 3b, 4a

Exercise p. 11

If I were you, I would ask; 2. If you made; you would feel 3. If your boss treated; you would enjoy; 4. If you worked; your boss would bother; 5. If your office had; maybe it would be

Exercise p. 24

2. If she had not worked until midnight yesterday, she would not be so tired now.
3. If you had listened to my advice, you would have the job you wanted.
4. If I had not been late for work today, my boss would not be unhappy with me
5. If she had not fallen asleep while baking a cake, it would not be burnt.





Find the word that fits best

1. If she had brought her swimming costume, she _____ in the lake.

- a. swam b. would have swum c. swims d. would

2. If you had come in for a cup of coffee, we _____ each other sooner.

- a. could have met b. could meet c. would meet d. met

3. It _____ great to visit the Great Wall of China, but we did not have enough time on our trip.

- a. was not b. was c. would be d. would have been

4. If he was better at English, he _____ in the U.K. while he was at University.

- a. might have studied b. will study c. would study d. studies



Fill in the missing clause to build a complete third conditional sentence

If she had not taken an English course	_____
_____	he would not have had a car accident.
If I had realised how much you loved singing	_____
_____	she would have missed an amazing opportunity.
If you had spoken with your manager	_____
_____	we would not have seen that a beautiful sunset.
If I had not overslept	_____
_____	I could have travelled around the world.
If they had looked out their window	_____





Homework answer key

Exercise p. 31
1b, 2a, 3d, 4a

