**Mini-Lesson: Second & Third Conditionals (Unreal Conditionals)**

**1. Introduction to Conditionals**

* **Second Conditional**: Hypothetical situations in the **present/future** (unlikely or imaginary).
  + *Example*: *If I won the lottery, I would buy a castle.* (But I probably won’t win.)
* **Third Conditional**: Hypothetical situations in the **past** (impossible to change).
  + *Example*: *If you had studied, you would have passed the exam.* (But you didn’t study.)

**2. Forming the Conditionals**

| **Conditional** | **If-Clause** | **Main Clause** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Second** | Past Simple | would + base verb |
|  | *If I had time,* | *I would travel more.* |
| **Third** | Past Perfect | would have + past participle |
|  | *If she had left earlier,* | *she wouldn’t have missed the train.* |

**Note**:

* **Second Conditional**: Use **were** (not was) for all subjects in formal English (*If I were rich…*).
* **Third Conditional**: Often expresses regret or criticism (*If you had listened…*).

**3. Uses & Examples**

**Second Conditional**

1. **Unreal Present/Future**:
   * *If I spoke French, I would work in Paris.* (I don’t speak French.)
2. **Polite Advice**:
   * *If I were you, I’d apologize.*

**Third Conditional**

1. **Past Mistakes/Regrets**:
   * *If we had taken a map, we wouldn’t have gotten lost.*
2. **Imagining Different Outcomes**:
   * *If he had practiced, he might have won the race.*

**4. Common Mistakes to Avoid**

* **Mixing Conditionals**:
  + ❌ *If I had a million dollars, I would have bought a yacht.*
  + ✅ *If I had a million dollars, I would buy a yacht.* (Second Conditional)
* **Forgetting "Would"**:
  + ❌ *If you studied, you passed.*
  + ✅ *If you studied, you would pass.*

**5. Practice Exercises**

**Exercise 1: Choose the Correct Conditional**

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_\_ (know) the answer, I would tell you. (Second)
2. She \_\_\_\_\_\_ (call) you if she had your number. (Third)

**Exercise 2: Correct the Errors**

1. *If you would have asked, I helped you.* →  
   **If you had asked, I would have helped you.**
2. *If I am you, I’d quit that job.* →  
   **If I were you, I’d quit that job.**

**Exercise 3: Complete the Sentences**

1. (Second) If people \_\_\_\_\_\_ (recycle) more, pollution \_\_\_\_\_\_ (decrease).
2. (Third) If you \_\_\_\_\_\_ (not forget) your keys, you \_\_\_\_\_\_ (not be) locked out.

**6. Speaking Activity**

**"What If?" Game**

* Students take turns asking hypothetical questions:
  + *Second Conditional*: *What would you do if you met your favorite celebrity?*
  + *Third Conditional*: *What would have happened if smartphones had never been invented?*

**Key Notes**

* **Second = Unreal Now/Future** | **Third = Unreal Past**
* **Contrast with First Conditional** (Real future):
  + *If it rains, we’ll cancel the picnic.* (Likely to happen.)

**Homework**: Write 5 sentences:

* 2 Second Conditionals (present/future),
* 3 Third Conditionals (past).

Need a cheat sheet for irregular past participles? Let me know! 😊