Grammar Mini-Lesson: Second and Third Conditionals (B1)

# 🎯 Objective:

Understand and use the second and third conditionals to talk about hypothetical situations in the present/future and past.

# 🔍 Step 1: What are Conditionals?

Conditionals are sentences with “if” that describe possible or imaginary situations and their results. We use different tenses depending on when and how real the situation is.

# 🧩 Second Conditional – Unreal / Hypothetical Present or Future

## 📘 Form:

If + past simple, would + base verb

## 🧠 Meaning:

We use it to talk about imaginary or unlikely situations now or in the future.

## ✅ Examples:

• If I won the lottery, I would travel the world.

• If she knew his number, she would call him.

## ⚠️ Common Mistakes:

❌ If I will see him, I would tell him.  
✅ If I saw him, I would tell him.

# 🧩 Third Conditional – Unreal Past

## 📘 Form:

If + past perfect, would have + past participle

## 🧠 Meaning:

We use it to talk about a situation in the past that didn’t happen, and imagine a different result.

## ✅ Examples:

• If I had studied, I would have passed the exam.

• If they had left earlier, they wouldn’t have missed the train.

## ⚠️ Common Mistakes:

❌ If I studied, I would have passed.  
✅ If I had studied, I would have passed.

# 🎯 Comparing the Two:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Situation | If clause | Result clause | Example |
| Present/Future | If + past simple | would + base verb | If I had time, I would help you. |
| Past (imaginary) | If + past perfect | would have + past participle | If I had had time, I would have helped you. |

# 📝 Practice Activities:

## 1. Complete the Sentences

Fill in the gaps using the correct conditional:  
1. If I \_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) you, I \_\_\_\_\_\_ (not do) that.  
2. If he \_\_\_\_\_\_ (study) more, he \_\_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the test.  
3. If we \_\_\_\_\_\_ (leave) earlier, we \_\_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) on time.

## 2. Correct the Mistake

Find and correct the errors:  
1. If I will go, I would tell you.  
2. If she studied, she would have passed.  
3. If they had knew, they would help.

## 3. Imagine and Write

Write 2 sentences for each conditional:  
- Second conditional: Something you would do if you were rich.  
- Third conditional: Something you regret not doing last weekend.

# 💬 Speaking Prompt:

Talk with a partner or write your answer:  
- What would you do if you had a free plane ticket anywhere?  
- If you had studied something else at school, how would your life be different?