**Unit X - Conditionals (If... then...)**

**A. Study these example situations:**

**Second Conditional Example (Imaginary Present/Future):** Imagine you don't have enough money to buy a new car. You think: "If I **had** a lot of money, I **would buy** a new car."

* You don't have a lot of money now. This situation is imaginary or unlikely.
* The action (buying a car) is a hypothetical result of that imaginary situation.

**Third Conditional Example (Imaginary Past):** Imagine you didn't study for an exam and failed it. You regret it: "If I **had studied** harder, I **would have passed** the exam."

* You didn't study, and you didn't pass. This action happened in the past and cannot be changed.
* This expresses a hypothetical situation in the past and a different past result.

**B. Form and Use of Conditionals:**

**Second Conditional: If + Past Simple, would/wouldn't + base verb**

We use the second conditional to talk about **imaginary or hypothetical situations in the present or future** and their probable results. These situations are either impossible or very unlikely.

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| **Condition (If-clause)** | **Result (Main clause)** | **Example** |
| If + **Past Simple** | **would/wouldn't + base verb** | If I **won** the lottery, I **would travel** the world. |
|  |  | If she **were** taller, she **could play** basketball. |

* ☐ If I **had** more free time, I **would learn** to play the guitar. (But I don't have much free time.)
* ☐ What **would** you **do** if you **saw** a ghost?
* ☐ If it **weren't** raining, we **could go** for a walk. (Note: 'were' is often used instead of 'was' for all subjects in the 'if' clause of the second conditional, especially in formal English, though 'was' is common in spoken English.)

**Third Conditional: If + Past Perfect, would/wouldn't have + past participle**

We use the third conditional to talk about **imaginary situations in the past**. We use it to describe a hypothetical past action and a hypothetical past result, often expressing regret or criticism. The situations are impossible because the past cannot be changed.

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| **Condition (If-clause)** | **Result (Main clause)** | **Example** |
| If + **Past Perfect (had + P.P.)** | **would/wouldn't have + past participle** | If you **had called** me, I **would have helped** you. |
|  |  | If she **hadn't missed** the bus, she **wouldn't have been** late. |

* ☐ If I **had known** about the party, I **would have come**. (But I didn't know, so I didn't come.)
* ☐ They **would have arrived** on time if the train **hadn't been** delayed.
* ☐ If he **had studied** for the exam, he **would have passed** it. (But he didn't study, so he failed.)

**C. Making Questions and Negative Sentences:**

For both conditionals, the negative is formed by putting not with would or had. Questions often involve inverting the subject and would in the main clause, or had in the if-clause for the third conditional.

* **Second Conditional:**
  + **Negative:** If I **didn't have** to work, I **wouldn't be** so tired.
  + **Question:** What **would** you **do** if you **didn't like** your job?
* **Third Conditional:**
  + **Negative:** If she **hadn't forgotten** her passport, she **wouldn't have missed** her flight.
  + **Question:** **Would** you **have gone** to the concert if it **had rained**?

**D. Common Variations:**

* **'Could' or 'Might' instead of 'Would':**
  + In the main clause, we can use could (meaning 'would be able to') or might (meaning 'would perhaps') instead of would.
    - Second: If I had more time, I **could learn** French.
    - Third: If I had saved more money, I **might have bought** a car.
* **The 'if' clause can come second:**
  + The meaning is the same, but if the 'if' clause comes second, you usually don't use a comma.
    - I would buy a new car if I had a lot of money.
    - I would have helped you if you had called me.

**E. Special Uses: Mixed Conditionals**

Sometimes we combine parts of the second and third conditionals, creating "mixed conditionals." These are for more complex situations. For B1 learners, focus on the main types, but be aware that mixes exist.

* **Type 1 (Past condition, present result):** If + Past Perfect, would + base verb
  + ☐ If I **had listened** to your advice (in the past), I **wouldn't be** in this trouble now (present).
* **Type 2 (Present condition, past result):** If + Past Simple, would have + past participle
  + ☐ If I **were** a good cook (general truth/present ability), I **would have made** dinner last night (past).