

GRAMMAR

Reviewing the third conditional

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1042G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can form the third conditional and use it in a sentence.
- I can talk about a past situation and imagine a different result for it.

Third conditional

We use the **third conditional** to speculate about **past events**.

We imagine how things **could have been different** in the past.



If **I had slept** more, **I would have had** more energy at work.

Building the third conditional

- *If + past perfect, **would** + **have** + past participle.*



If **I had left** home earlier, I **would have got** to the office on time.

If **Sarah had bought** more sandwiches, the guests at her party **wouldn't have been** so hungry.



Past perfect
had + past participle

Building the third conditional

- In speaking, we often use **contracted forms** for *had ('d)* and *would have (would've)*.



If **I'd** taken the morning flight, I **would've** arrived by lunch.

If **you'd** been honest with me, I **would've** forgiven you!



Practise pronouncing
would've with your teacher

I would have arrived
by lunch **if I'd taken
the morning flight.**

I would have forgiven
you **if you'd been
honest with me!**



We can also put the ***if* clause** at the end of the sentence.

Just remember to **remove**
the comma!



Match the two halves of the sentence

Form a third conditional sentence.

1 If we had had more time,

2 I'm sure your parents would have lent you some money

3 If you hadn't driven me,

4 I wouldn't have bought so much food

5 They would have made a lot more money

a if you had asked them.

b I would have had to walk home.

c if I had known only 3 people were coming!

d if they had sold their business 5 years ago.

e we would have spent longer at the museum.



Write a third conditional sentence

Then, **compare** answers in **breakout rooms**.

1 We didn't hear the announcement. We missed our stop on the bus.



If **we had heard** the announcement, **we wouldn't have missed** our stop.

2 I didn't pass my final year exams. I did not receive my degree.



3 She didn't see the deer on the road. She crashed her car.



4 Tom broke up with John. They did not get married last year.



5 I was so nervous. I gave such a terrible speech.



6 John forgot to bring his notes. His presentation was a total disaster.





Complete the sentences for you

Write your own third conditional sentence for the fourth.



If it had been sunnier last week, I...

If I hadn't come to this class, I...

If I had got up one hour earlier today, I...

?

Third conditional with *could* and *might*

- We can also use *could* or *might* in the **third conditional** in place of *would*.
- This allows us to express **ability** or **possibility**.

If clause

might or could + have + past participle

If I had brought my tools,

I **could** have fixed your car.

If I had studied architecture,

I **might** have become a great architect.



Match the beginnings and endings

1 I might have got that job...

2 Tina could have gone to the party

3 He might have got a better exam score...

4 I could have stayed at home today...

5 If I had been more careful,

a if he had studied harder.

b if you hadn't insisted on coming to the office.

c if I hadn't been out drinking the night before the interview.

d I might never have had the accident.

e if her friends had told her the address.



Form a third conditional

Use *could have* or *might have* in your answer.

1 I didn't finish my Master's thesis, so I didn't do a PhD.



If **I'd finished** my Master's thesis, I **could have done** a PhD.

2 You didn't check your bike brakes properly. You had an accident two days later.



3 Tim's parents didn't go on holidays because there was nobody to look after him.



4 It was a hot day. The tennis player lost the match.



5 Property prices didn't go down, so we didn't buy a house in the country.



6 You didn't put enough sun cream on. You got badly burnt.





Writing

1. **Think** about a time you wish you had done something differently.
2. **Write** a paragraph about it. **Aim** to write 40-60 words.
3. **Share** your paragraph with the class.

- What did you do?
- What do you wish you had done instead?
- What do you think might have happened as a result?





End of the lesson

Idiom

thank your lucky stars

Meaning: to feel grateful and lucky about something

Example: I **thank my lucky stars** I met you. If I hadn't, I would have been so miserable!



Additional practice



Fill in the gaps

Form third conditional sentences.

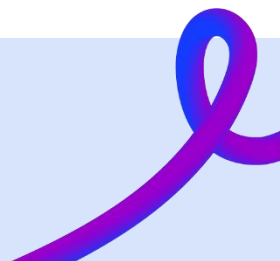
1. If I _____ (*know*) it was your birthday today, I
_____ (*would, buy*) you a gift.
2. You _____ (*might, not, be*) ill yesterday if you
_____ (*not, drink*) all that wine.
3. We _____ (*would, come*) to the party with you
if you _____ (*tell*) us about it!
4. You _____ (*could, pass*) the exam if you
_____ (*work*) a little harder.
5. If they _____ (*see*) you, I'm sure they
_____ (*would, say*) hello to you!





Write a third conditional sentence

1	I wasn't hungry. I didn't eat my dinner.	>	If I had been hungry, I would have eaten my dinner. _____ _____
2	I didn't know Sarah was in town. I didn't ring her.	>	_____ _____ _____
3	I didn't know the book was on the reading list. I didn't read it.	>	_____ _____ _____
4	I shouted at my neighbour yesterday. She got very upset.	>	_____ _____ _____
5	I ate the sandwich in the fridge. I didn't know it was yours.	>	_____ _____ _____
6	I didn't see Jane at the party. I wanted to ask her about her trip to Madrid.	>	_____ _____ _____





Discuss

If you hadn't been at work this week, what would you have done instead?



If you hadn't chosen your current career path, what could you have done instead?



Answer key

P. 7: 1. e, 2. a, 3. b, 4. c, 5. d

P. 8: **Suggested answers:**

2. If I had passed my final year exams, I would have received my degree.
3. If she had seen the deer on the road, she wouldn't have crashed her car.
4. If Tom hadn't broken up with John, they would have got married.
5. If I hadn't been so nervous, I wouldn't have given such a terrible speech.
6. If John had remembered his notes, the presentation wouldn't have been a total disaster.

P. 11: 1. c, 2. e, 3. a, 4. b, 5. d

P. 12: **Suggested answers:**

2. You might not have had an accident if you had checked your bike brakes properly.
3. If Tim's parents had gone on holiday, his auntie could have looked after him.
4. The tennis player might have won the match if it hadn't been so hot.
5. If property prices had gone down, we could have bought a house in the country.
6. You might not have got burnt so badly if you had put enough sun cream on.



Answer key

- P. 17:**
1. had known, would have bought
 2. might not have been, hadn't drunk
 3. would have come, had told
 4. could have passed, had worked
 5. had seen, would have said

P. 18: Suggested answers:

2. I would have rung Sarah if I had known she was in town.
3. If I had known the book was on the reading list, I would have read it.
4. If I hadn't shouted at my neighbour yesterday, she wouldn't have got so upset.
5. I had known the sandwich in the fridge was yours, I wouldn't have eaten it.
6. If I had seen Jane at the party, I would have asked her about her trip to Madrid.



Summary

Building the third conditional

- *If + past perfect, **would** + **have** + past participle.*
- We often use **contracted forms** for **had ('d)** and **would have (would've)**.
- *If **you had told** me about the party, I **would have come**!*

Ordering the clauses

- We can also put the **if clause** at the end of the sentence. Just remember to **remove** the comma!
- ***If** you had been honest with me, I would have forgiven you!* (with the comma)
- *I would have forgiven you **if** you had been honest with me!* (no comma needed)

Using the third conditional

- We use the **third conditional** to speculate about **past events**.
- We imagine how things **could have been different** in the past.
- *If I **had slept** more, I **would have had** more energy at work.*

Third conditional with **could** and **might**

- We can also use **could** or **might** in place of **would**. This allows us to express **ability** or **possibility**.
- *If I had brought my tools, I **could** have fixed your car.* (ability)
- *If I had studied architecture, I **might** have become a great architect.* (possibility)



Vocabulary

total disaster

to break up

to insist on doing something

could have

might have

