The third and mixed conditionals

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3318G

LANGUAGE
English

Goals

- Can form the third conditional and use it accurately in a sentence.

- Can discuss hypothetical situations using a range of conditionals, including mixed conditionals.

If **you'd grown up** in the UK, what food **would you have eaten** as a child?

What language **would you speak** now?

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Regrets

■ The **third conditional** describes things that **did not happen in the past**.

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

Reviewing 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.

Reviewing the conditionals

You are giving your friend some career advice. Which conditional should you use? Discuss this with your teacher before filling in the blanks with the correct form of the verb.

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]

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?

Building the third conditional

- The **third conditional** is built with **two clauses**:
  - An **if clause** with 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 is often used to talk about **regrets** we have.
- 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 train.**
  - Unfortunately, we were late and so we missed it.

Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps to create sentences in the third conditional.

1. If I _____ (take) that module on statistics, I _____ (pass) my final exam.
2. She _____ (not crash) her car if she _____ (focus) on the road.
3. If she _____ (not broke) up with him, they _____ (get married) last year.
4. I _____ (give) a much better speech if I _____ (not be) so nervous.
5. The presentation _____ (not be) such a disaster if John _____ (not forget) the slides.

Complete the sentences

Complete the following sentences with your own ideas in the third conditional. Then compare with a partner.

1. If I hadn't come to this English class, I…

2. If I had taken two months' holiday last year, I…

3. I would have been happier if…

4. My life would have been easier if…

5. I would have been a bit miserable if…

Using other modal verbs in the third conditional

- In addition to **would**, we can also use modal verbs like **could** or **might** in the **third conditional.**
- This allows you to **express ability or possibility**.

Modal verbs in the third conditional

If I'd studied architecture, I might have become a great architect.

You might not have come to the meeting if you'd known it was going to be about sales targets again!

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

Match the beginnings and endings

1. I might have got that job... → A. if he had studied more.

2. He could have got a better grade... → B. if you hadn't insisted on coming to the office.

3. Tina might have gone to the party... → C. if I hadn't been out drinking the night before the interview.

4. You could have stayed at home today... → D. I might never have got into this situation.

5. If I had been more proactive, → E. if her friends had told her the address.

Think about a former friend or relationship. What are some things you could have or might have done differently?

If I had called...

If we hadn't fallen out...

We might never have...

Mixed conditionals

We use **mixed conditionals** to talk about two different time periods.
- Often, we use a **third conditional** in the **if** clause + a **second conditional**.
- We use this to contrast an event in the past with the **present consequence**.

3rd conditional	2nd conditional
If he had studied more at school...	he would have a better job now.
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.

Mixed conditionals

- You can also express how **actions** or **conditions** in the **present** are **related** to events in the **past.**
- We use a **second conditional *if* clause** to express an **unrealised** or **impossible** situation in the present + a **third conditional *would* clause**.

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

Combine the sentences into a mixed conditional

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.

   → _____

Missed chances

Look at these things that people can do at school or university. Can you think of any more? Did you do any of these things? How different do you think your life would be if you had or hadn't done them?

Study abroad

Doing a masters

Joining a club or society

Making international friends

Think about a **mistake** you've made in your **professional life**.

What were the **consequences** of this mistake?

How would your **current situation** be different if you had not made this mistake?

Gratitude

What are you most grateful for in your life? Try to use conditionals in your answer.

If it hadn't been for...

I never would have...

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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

Exercise p. 7

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

Exercise p. 11

1. had taken, would have passed, 2. would not have crashed, had focused, 3. had not broken, would have got married, 4. would have given, had not been, 5. would not have been, had not forgotten
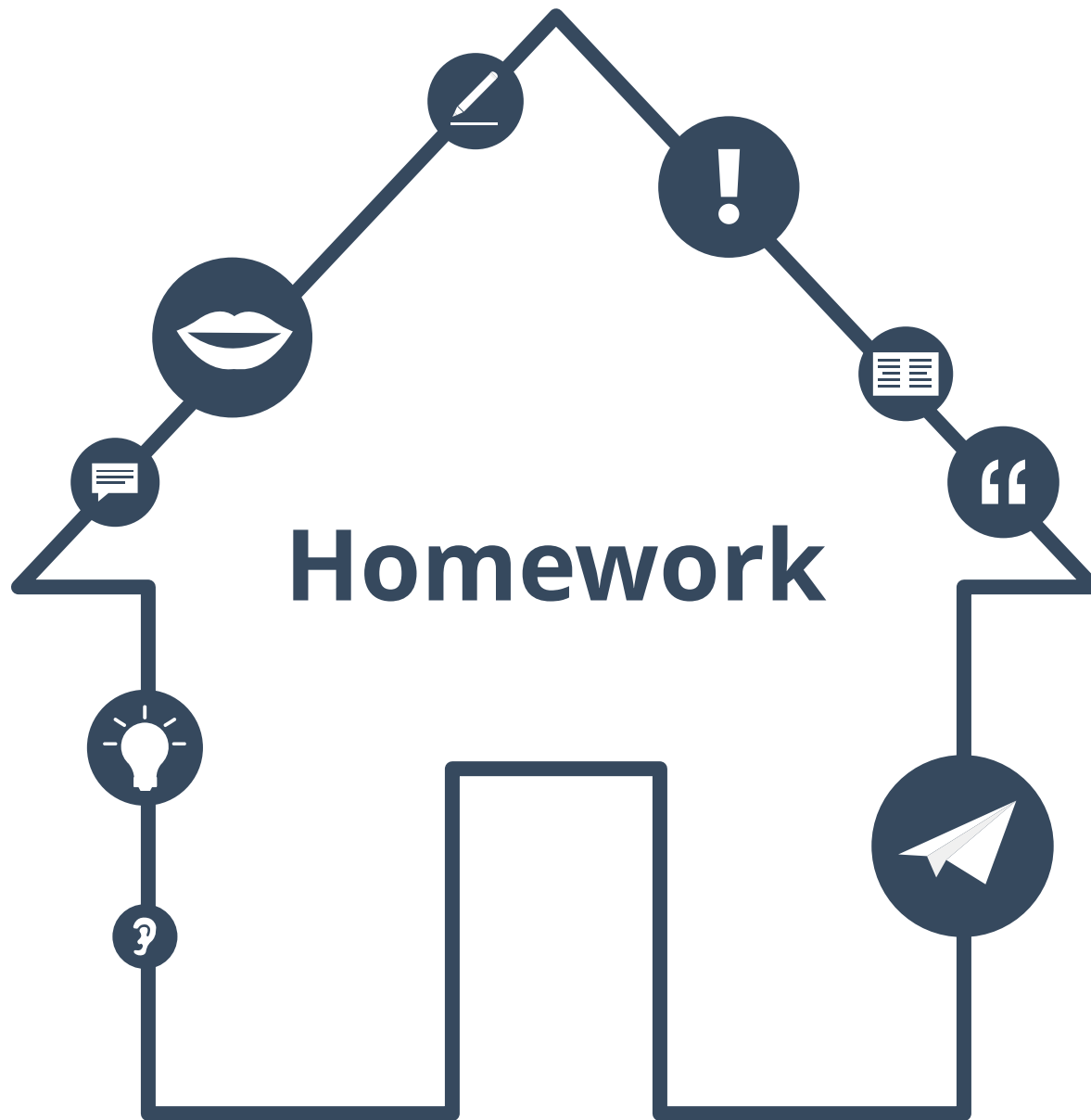
Exercise p. 14

1. C, 2. A, 3. E, 4. B, 5. D

Exercise p. 18

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 right now.
5. If she had not fallen asleep while baking a cake, it would not be burnt.

Homework

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.

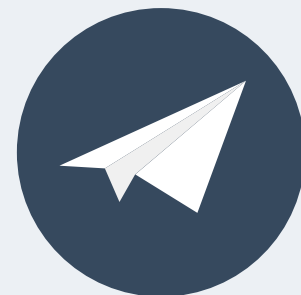   a. was not   b. was   c. would be   d. would have been

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

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 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. 27
1b, 2a, 3d, 4a

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