

STUDY REFERENCE

GRAMMAR **Getting in touch**

Language Summary

Conditionals, third, second, first

Third conditional: *If + past perfect, would/wouldn't have + past participle*

You use the *third conditional* to talk about something that did or didn't happen in the past that you can't change now.

If I'd known you were coming, **I'd have come** to meet you.

If I'd planned my visit earlier, **I'd have let** you know in advance.

Note: The *If clause* can come before or after the *would/wouldn't have* clause.

If you had called me last night, **I would have met** you at the airport.

I would have met you at the airport **if you had called** me last night.

Second conditional: *If + past simple, would/wouldn't + infinitive (without to)*

- You use the *second conditional* to talk about imaginary or future situations that you think are unlikely to come true.

If I had a car, **I'd come and pick you up** right now.

If my wife were here, **I'd borrow** her car.



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Language Summary

Conditionals, third, second, first cont.

Note:

- In formal English, you use *were* after *I / he / she / it* in the *If clause* of a second conditional sentence.

- In informal English, you can use *was* instead of *were* after *I / he / she / it*.

If she was here, I'd borrow her car.

- The *If clause* can come before or after the *would / wouldn't* clause.

I'd borrow her car if she was here.

First conditional: *If + present simple, will / won't + infinitive (without to).*

- You use the *first conditional* to talk about what will happen in the future in certain circumstances.

If the taxi drops you outside the Garden Park Hotel, I'll see you as soon as you arrive.

Note:

The *If clause* can come before or after the *will / won't* clause.

I'll see you as soon as you arrive if the taxi drops you outside the Garden Park Hotel.

