

Third Conditional

WHEN TO USE, HOW TO USE, EXAMPLES

When to use the third conditional

For unlikely or impossible situations and their results.

For referring to past events that cannot be changed.

Usually used to indicate regret or give criticism

- The time frame is in the past.
- The situation is impossible or hypothetical.

Third conditional format

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

if + past perfect

perfect (continuous) conditional

(If this had happened

this would have happened / been happening)

The order is not fixed, so you can swap the condition and result.

You might have to pay attention to pronouns.

Third conditional examples

1. Expressing regret.

- If I had worked harder, I would have passed the exam.
- I would have passed the exam if I had worked harder.

- I would have baked a cake if I knew you were visiting.
- If I knew you were visiting, I would have baked a cake.

- If I had prepared better, I would have gotten the job.
- I would have gotten the job if I had prepared better.

Third conditional examples

2. Showing criticism.

- If you had remembered to get petrol, we wouldn't have been late.
- We wouldn't have been late if you had remembered to get petrol.

- If you had played better, we would have won the match.
- We would have won the match if you had played better.

- If you hadn't eaten so much, you wouldn't be feeling sick.
- You wouldn't be feeling sick if you hadn't eaten so much.