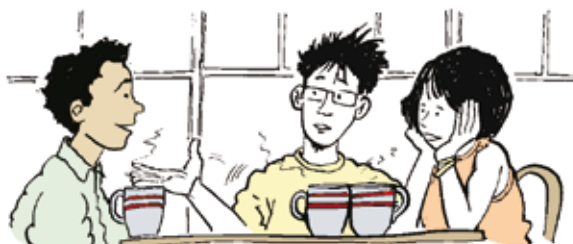


146 Conditionals (3)

1 Introduction

- David: How was your camping holiday?
 Mike: Well, it **would have** been all right if it **hadn't rained** all the time.
 Harriet: If we'd **gone** two weeks earlier, we'd **have** had better weather.



If it hadn't rained and if we'd gone two weeks earlier are imaginary situations in the past. It did rain, and they didn't go two weeks earlier.

2 Third Conditional: If we had gone earlier, we would have had better weather

IF-CLAUSE		MAIN CLAUSE	
If	+ PAST PERFECT		+ would have
<i>If we</i>	'd gone earlier,	<i>we</i>	'd have had better weather.
<i>If Matthew</i>	had phoned her,	<i>Emma</i>	wouldn't have been so annoyed.
<i>If you</i>	hadn't made that mistake,	<i>you</i>	'd have passed your test.
<i>If David</i>	had been more careful,	<i>he</i>	wouldn't have fallen.

Note the verb in the Past Perfect (e.g. **had been**). We do not use **would** in the if-clause.
 NOT *If David would have been more careful, he would have fallen.*

The main clause often has **would have**. We can also use **could have** or **might have**.
*If I'd had my mobile yesterday, I **could have** contacted you.*
*We just caught the train. If we'd stopped to buy a paper, we **might have** missed it.*

The short form 'd can be either **had** or **would**.
*If you'd rung me, I'd have come to see you. (= If you **had** rung me, I **would** have come to see you.)*

3 The use of the Third Conditional

We use the Third Conditional to talk about things in the past happening differently from the way they really happened. This sometimes means criticizing people or pointing out their mistakes.

- If you'd been a bit more careful, you **wouldn't have** cut yourself.*
*If Matthew had set his alarm clock, he **wouldn't have** overslept.*

We can also use this structure to express regret about the past.
*If I hadn't fallen ill and missed the interview, I **might have** got the job.*

4 Second and Third Conditionals

Compare these examples.

- Second: *If you **planned** things properly, you **wouldn't** get into a mess.* (You don't plan.)
 Third: *If you **had planned** things properly, you **wouldn't have** got into a mess.* (You didn't plan.)

We can mix the Second and Third conditionals.

- If you **had planned** things at the start, we **wouldn't** be in this mess now.*
*If you **hadn't left** all these dirty dishes, the place **would** look a bit tidier.*
*If Matthew **was** more sensible, he **would have** worn a suit to the interview.*
*If I **didn't have** all this work to do, I **would have** gone out for the day.*



Practice

A Third Conditional (1–3)

Complete the conversation. Put in the correct form of the verb. Use the Past Perfect or *would have*.

- Nick: United didn't play very well today.
 Tom: We were awful. But if Hacker ► *had taken* (take) that easy chance,
 ► *we would have won* (we / win).
 Nick: We didn't deserve to win. It (1) (be) pretty unfair if Rangers
 (2) (lose).
 Tom: Hacker was dreadful. My grandmother (3) (score) if
 (4) (she / be) in that position.
 Nick: And if Burley (5) (not / be) asleep,
 he (6) (not / give) a goal away.
 Tom: If Johnson (7) (not / be) injured when we needed him
 most, (8) (it / be) different.
 Nick: Yes, (9) (we / beat) them if (10)
 (he / be) fit.

B Third Conditional (1–3)

Comment on each situation using a Third Conditional with *if*. Use *would have*, *could have* or *might have*.

- In a bookshop yesterday Daniel saw a book he really wanted. The only problem was that he didn't have any money. *Daniel would have bought the book if he had had any money.*
 - Rita often goes to concerts at the town hall, although not to every one. There was one on Saturday, but she didn't know about it. *Rita might have gone to the concert if she had known about it.*
- 1 On Sunday the guests had to have their lunch inside. Unfortunately it wasn't warm enough to have it outside.
 - 2 There was a bomb scare last Tuesday. Sarah wanted to fly to Rome, but she wasn't able to. The airport was closed.
 - 3 Laura has only met Nick once, and it's possible she wouldn't recognize him. He passed her yesterday, but he had a crash-helmet on.
 - 4 Sarah has been quite busy, and she hasn't watered her plants for some time. As a result, they've died.
 - 5 Nick likes ice hockey, but he didn't have a ticket to the game last week, so unfortunately he wasn't able to get in.

C Second and Third Conditionals (4)

Complete the conversations. Put in the correct form of the verb.

Use the Past Simple, the Past Perfect, *would*, or *would have*.

- Mike: You look tired.
 Harriet: Well, if *you hadn't woken* (you / not / wake) me up in the middle of the night, *I wouldn't be* (I / not be) so tired.
- 1 Rita: Is Trevor a practical person?
 Laura: Trevor? No, he isn't. If (he / be) practical, (he / put) those shelves up a bit quicker. It took him ages.
 - 2 Tom: Why are you sitting in the dark?
 David: Let's just say that if (I / pay) my electricity bill last month, (I / not be) in the dark now.
 - 3 Matthew: Why are you so angry with me? All I did yesterday was play basketball.
 Emma: If (you / love) me, (you / not / leave) me here all alone on my birthday.