

unreal conditionals

second conditional sentences: *if* + past simple, *would* / *wouldn't* + infinitive

- 1 If there **was** a fire in this hotel, it **would be** very difficult to escape. (3 12)))
I **wouldn't have** a car if I **didn't live** in the country.
- 2 If you **weren't** making so much noise, I **could concentrate** better.
- 3 If I **were** you, I'd **make** Jimmy wear a helmet when he's cycling.

- 1 We use second conditional sentences to talk about a hypothetical or imaginary situation in the present or future and its consequences.
- 2 In the *if*-clause you can also use the past continuous. In the other clause you can use *could* or *might* instead of *would*.
- 3 With the verb *be* you can use *was* or *were* for *I*, *he*, and *she* in the *if*-clause, e.g. *If Dan was / were here, he would know what to do.* However, in conditionals beginning *If I were you...* to give advice, we always use *were*.

third conditional sentences: *if* + past perfect, *would* / *wouldn't have* + past participle

- 1 If you **had come** to class more often, you **would have done** better in the exams. (3 13)))
I **wouldn't have been** late if I **hadn't overslept**.
- 2 He **would have died** if he **hadn't been wearing** a helmet.
If the jacket **had been** a bit cheaper, I **might have bought** it.

- 1 We use third conditional sentences to talk about a hypothetical past situation and its consequences.
- 2 You can also use the past perfect continuous in the *if*-clause. You can also use *could have* or *might have* instead of *would have* in the other clause.

second or third conditional?

- 1 If you **came** to class more often, you **would** probably **pass** the exam. (3 14)))
- 2 If you **had come** to class more often, you **would** probably **have passed** the exam.

Compare the two conditionals.

- 1 = You don't come to class enough. You need to come more often if you want to pass the exam.
- 2 = You didn't come to class enough, so you failed.



Mixed conditionals

We sometimes mix second and third conditionals if a hypothetical situation in the past has a present / future consequence, e.g. *You wouldn't be so tired if you had gone to bed earlier last night.*

If he really loved you, he would have asked you to marry him.

- a Complete with the correct form of the verb in brackets, using a second or third conditional.

If Tim *hadn't got injured*, he would have played in the final. (not get injured)

- 1 I _____ so much food if you'd told me you weren't hungry. (not made)
- 2 If I were you, I _____ money to members of your family. (not lend)
- 3 I _____ Jack to help me if he wasn't so busy. (ask)
- 4 Joe _____ an accident if he hadn't been driving so fast. (not have)
- 5 I'd run the marathon if I _____ a bit fitter. (be)
- 6 If you _____ where you were going, you wouldn't have fallen over. (look)
- 7 I'm sure you _____ dancing if you came to the classes with me. (enjoy)
- 8 We'd go to the local restaurant if they _____ the menu from time to time. (change)
- 9 Nina wouldn't have gone abroad if she _____ to find a job here. (be able)
- 10 If you _____ for a discount in the shop, they might have given you one. (ask)

- b Complete using a second or third conditional.

You didn't wait ten minutes. You didn't see Jim.

If *you'd waited ten minutes*, you *would have seen Jim*.

- 1 Luke missed the train. He was late for the interview.
If Luke _____ the train, he _____ late for the interview
- 2 Millie didn't buy the top. She didn't have any money.
Millie _____ the top if she _____ some money.
- 3 It started snowing. We didn't reach the top.
If _____ snowing, we _____ the top.
- 4 Rebecca drinks too much coffee. She sleeps badly.
If Rebecca _____ so much coffee, she _____ badly.
- 5 I don't drive to work. There's so much traffic.
I _____ to work if _____ so much traffic.
- 6 Matt doesn't treat Sue well. She won't stay with him.
If Matt _____ his girlfriend better, she _____ with him.
- 7 You don't do any exercise. You don't feel healthy.
You _____ a lot healthier if you _____ some exercise.
- 8 The taxi driver had satnav. He found the street easily.
The driver _____ the street if he _____ satnav.
- 9 Jim bought the wrong size. I had to change the sweater.
If Jim _____ the right size, I _____ the sweater.
- 10 You get up late. You waste half the morning.
If you _____ earlier, you _____ half the morning.