

# Mixed conditionals

Lesson code: LE1V-CKVB-EGUI-F

STRONG INTERMEDIATE +

## 1 Presentation

When we talk about an imaginary or hypothetical situation, we sometimes need to use a mixed conditional structure. There are two types of mixed conditionals.

Structure	Examples and use
<p><b>Third second mixed conditionals</b></p> <p><i>If I had (+ past participle) ..., I would (+ infinitive) ...</i></p> <p>Instead of <b>would</b>, we can use <b>could</b> or <b>might</b>.</p>	<p>Yesterday I went to bed early. I am not tired today. <b>If I had gone</b> to bed late, <b>I'd be tired</b> today.</p> <p>We use a <b>third second mixed conditional</b> when we imagine <b>present</b> actions or situations that are the result of an imaginary or hypothetical situation in the <b>past</b>.</p> <p><b>If I hadn't called</b> you yesterday, <b>you wouldn't be</b> here today. Where <b>would you stay</b> if <b>you hadn't found</b> a hotel this morning?</p>
<p><b>Second third mixed conditionals</b></p> <p><i>If I did ..., I would have (+ past participle) ...</i></p> <p>Instead of <b>would</b>, we can use <b>could</b> or <b>might</b>.</p>	<p>Yesterday, I heard a French song, but I didn't understand the words because I can't speak French. <b>If I could speak</b> French, <b>I would have understood</b> the song.</p> <p>We use a <b>second third mixed conditional</b> when we imagine a situation in the <b>past</b> that is the result of an imaginary or hypothetical situation that is <b>still true</b>.</p> <p>What <b>would you have done</b> if <b>you were</b> me? <b>If it wasn't</b> so cold in this country, <b>we could have gone</b> out yesterday.</p>

### Things to remember

- We do not use **would** in the **if**-part of the sentence:  
If I ~~would have gone~~ had gone to bed late last night, I would be tired today.
- We can say **'d** instead of **would** or **had**:  
If I **'d** gone to bed late last night, **I'd** be tired today.
- We normally say **'d had** instead of **had had**:  
If I ~~had had~~ **'d had** passed my exams, I might have a job now.



**2 Practice 1**

Complete the sentences below with a third second mixed conditional.

1. Simon woke up early and is very sleepy now. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/wake up) early, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/be) sleepy now.
2. I am at home now because it started raining. If it \_\_\_\_\_ (not/start) raining, I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) out.
3. The Spanish team didn't train well at all, so they are not champions. If they \_\_\_\_\_ (train) well, they \_\_\_\_\_ (be) champions.
4. I lost my job, so I need to look for work. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/lose) my job, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not/need) to look for work.
5. James won the lottery, so he doesn't need a job now. He \_\_\_\_\_ (need) a job if he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/win) the lottery.
6. Alan had a serious argument with his friend Paul. They are no longer friends. If Alan \_\_\_\_\_ (not/argue) with Paul, they \_\_\_\_\_ (still/be) friends now.
7. The meeting started late. I'm not at home yet. I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at home now if the meeting \_\_\_\_\_ (start) on time.
8. Mike failed his university exams so he needs to retake them. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) them, he \_\_\_\_\_ (not/need) to retake them.

**3 Practice 2**

Last week, Nick was on holiday in France. Read the following facts about Nick and the problems he had in France, and write a second third mixed conditional sentences like in the example.

He doesn't drink alcohol.

He isn't interested in art.

He isn't rich.

He never cooks his lunch well.

He works in the summer.

He can't speak French.

1. He didn't understand the locals.  
If he could speak French, he would have understood the locals.
2. He didn't visit any art museums.  
If he .....
3. He stayed at a cheap hotel.  
He .....
4. He didn't try any French wine.  
If he .....
5. He went there during winter.  
If he .....
6. He got food poisoning in the evening.  
If he .....

