THIRD **VSMIXED** Conditionals

Past + present

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

1. If I leave at 11, I will come to work on time.

- 2. If I leave at 11, I come to work on time.
- 3. If I met her, I would tell her everything I think.
- 4. If I had met her, I would have told her everything I think.
- 1. If I hadn't been so stubborn, I would work on the project.
- 2. If I weren't so stubborn, I would have worked on the project.

USE 2ND CONDITIONAL TO:

talk about things in the **future** that are probably not going to be true. I might be imagining some dreams:

- If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a plane. (I probably won't win the lottery).
- If I met the Queen of England, I might be very surprised.
- He could travel all over the world if he were rich.

talk about something in the **present** which is impossible, because it's not true:

- If I had his number, I would call him. (I don't have his number now, so it's impossible for me to call him).
- If I were you, I wouldn't go out with that man.

USE 3RD CONDITIONAL TO:

talk about the **past**. It's used to describe a situation that **didn't happen**, and to **imagine** the result of this situation.

- If Ron had studied, he would have passed the test (but, really we know he *didn't study* and so he *didn't pass*).
- If I hadn't eaten so much, I wouldn't have felt sick (but I did eat a lot, and so I did feel sick).
- If we had taken a taxi, we wouldn't have missed the plane.
- She wouldn't have been tired if she had gone to bed earlier.
- She **would have become** a teacher if she **had gone** to university.
- He **would have been** on time for the interview if he **had left** the house at nine.

3RD CONDITIONAL: DIFFERENT STRUCTURES

If it hadn't been for something/somebody, ... Had it not been for something/somebody, ... Supposing/suppose ... What if ... But for ...

- **Suppose** we *hadn't brought* our umbrellas. (We did bring our umbrellas.).
- **Supposing** they *had closed* the road. *Would* that *have been* a good idea? (They didn't close the road.).
- What if I had accidentally told Maria about the party! That would have ruined the surprise. (I didn't tell Maria about the party.)
- If it **hadn't been for** the bad weather, we *would have gone* out yesterday.
- Had it not been for the bad weather, we *would have gone* out yesterday.
- She *wouldn't have become* a doctor **but for** the support of her parents.

MIXED CONDITIONAL

It is possible for the two parts of a conditional sentence **to refer to different times**, and the resulting sentence is a "**mixed conditional**" sentence. There are *two types of mixed conditional* sentences.

Present result of a past condition. In this type of mixed conditional sentence, the tense in the 'if' clause is the past perfect, and in the main clause would/could/might+infinitive.

The time is the past in the if-clause and the present in the main clause.

- If I had worked harder at school, I could have a better job now.
- We wouldn't be lost if we had looked at the map.
- If you had caught that plane you might be dead now.

MIXED CONDITIONAL

The second type of mixed conditional sentences.

- **Past result** of *a present or continuing condition.* In this second type of mixed conditional sentence, the tense in the **'if' clause** is the *simple past,* and the tense in the **main clause** is the *perfect conditional.* The time in the If-part is now or always, and the time in the main part is before now.
- If I wasn't afraid of spiders, I could have picked it up.
- We would have sacked him months ago if we didn't trust him.
- If I wasn't in the middle of another meeting, I might have helped you.

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

• If she wasn't afraid of flying she wouldn't have travelled by boat.

Is she afraid of flying? Did she travel by boat? (yes = 1, no = 2)

• I'd be a stewardess now if I had completed special training.

Did the person complete the training? Is she a stewardess?

• Had I not argued with Mary, we would get on well.

Do I get on well with Mary? Why?

- 1. Because I argued with her.
- 2. Because I always argue with her.
- If the elephant wasn't in love with the mouse, she'd have trodden on him by now.

Why did the elephant not tread on the mouse?

- 1. Because she loved it.
- 2. Because she loves it.

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