

Conditionals

During these units, we'll study conditionals. Conditionals are used to express (you guessed it) **conditions**.

There are four types of conditionals in English. They go from zero conditional (things that are true 100% of the time) to third conditional (unreal or imaginary situations).

In these specific units we'll focus on **SECOND** and **THIRD** conditional.

SECOND CONDITIONAL

Second conditional is used to talk about situations that are unlikely or hypothetical. This means that we are only thinking about how different things would be if we could control anything around us.

- IF I HAD A LOT OF MONEY, I would travel around the world
- IF I HAD A BETTER JOB, I would be able to get a new car

First, you are presented with a **CONDITION (Past Simple)**. Then you have a **result (would+infinitive)**

If you need to use the verb to be in the condition, you use **were**. **ALWAYS**. This is only valid during the second conditional case.

- If I were you, I'd get a new job.
- I'd talk to them if I were the boss.



If I were you, I'd study for the test

THIRD CONDITIONAL

Third conditional is used to talk about imaginary situations. We also use it to reflect on situations we can do nothing about now and we only wonder "***what if...?***"

We also have a **CONDITION (Past Perfect)** and a **result (would+have+verb in past participle)**. Here you have an example.

- IF I HAD PAID MORE ATTENTION, she would have stayed with me
- You wouldn't have felt sick IF YOU HADN'T EATEN SO MUCH

Whenever you invert a conditional (any conditional) the idea won't be modified but the comma separating those ideas will disappear. For example:

"If they had wanted to go, they would've gone" is the **SAME** as saying **"They would've gone if they'd wanted to go"**, but in the second example the comma goes away.

Complete the exercises below.

I. Choose the correct alternative for the spaces in the sentences:

1. If his nose ____ smaller, he ____ very handsome.
a) would be/were
b) was/be
c) is/would be
d) were/would be
2. I ____ if I ____ a car.
a) would have/had
b) had/would come
c) would come/had
d) would came/have
3. If she ____, she ____ him.
a) knows/'d told him
b) knew/'d tell him
c) know/'d tell him
d) knew/'d told him
4. If his parents ____ him money, he ____ so much.
a) didn't give/wouldn't go out
b) didn't go out/wouldn't go out
c) not went/wouldn't go out
d) didn't went/wouldn't go out
5. If she ____ me, she ____ told me.
a) didn't believe/would've
b) wouldn't believe/'d've
c) not believed/would've
d) didn't believed/would've
6. He ____ that if he ____ it.
a) wouldn't say/wouldn't mean
b) didn't mean/didn't say
c) would say/didn't mean
d) wouldn't say/didn't mean
7. I ____ on a trip around the world if I ____ the lottery.
a) would go/won
b) will go/win
c) would go/wined
d) will go/won
8. I ____ that if I ____ you.
a) will not do/was
b) wouldn't do/were
c) didn't do/was
d) not do/were
9. If these walls ____ thicker, we ____ the neighbors.
a) was/wouldn't hear
b) were/wouldn't hear
c) was/didn't hear
d) were/not hear
10. If I ____ a millionaire, I ____ a mansion.
a) were/'d buy
b) was/am going to buy
c) were/will buy
d) was/won't buy

II. Write the correct form of the verbs and complete the ideas using Second Conditional.

1. If I _____ (be) you, I _____ (get) a new job.
2. If he _____ (be) younger, he _____ (travel) more.
3. If we _____ (not / be) friends, I _____ (be) angry with you.
4. If I _____ (have) enough money, I _____ (buy) a big house.

5. If she _____ (not / be) always so late, she _____ (be) promoted.
6. If we _____ (win) the lottery, we _____ (travel) the world.
7. If you _____ (have) a better job, we _____ (be) able to buy a new car.
8. If I _____ (speak) perfect English, I _____ (have) a good job.
9. If we _____ (live) in Mexico, I _____ (speak) Spanish.
10. If she _____ (pass) the exam, she _____ (be) able to enter university.
11. It's Monday today, but if it _____ (be) Saturday, I _____ (go) to the beach.
12. I don't have any money now, but if I _____ (have) some, I _____ (lend) it to you.
13. I have to work tomorrow, but if I _____ (be) free, I _____ (go) shopping with you.
14. Amy can only speak one language, but if she _____ (can) speak two languages, she _____ (apply) for a job at the Multicultural Center.
15. Sue doesn't know how to knit. If she _____ (know) how to knit, she _____ (make) a sweater for you for your birthday.
16. I don't own a pair of skis. If I _____ (have) skis, I _____ (go) skiing with you tomorrow.
17. I can't understand what he's saying. If he _____ (speak) more clearly, I _____ (understand) more.
18. We are not going to buy that house, but if it _____ (be) a little cheaper, we _____ (buy) it.
19. He is not going to pass his exam. If he _____ (study) harder, he _____ (pass).

20. John has a lot of car accidents. If he _____ (drive) more carefully, he
_____ (have) fewer accidents.
21. Beth eats a lot of junk food. If she _____ (eat) healthier food, she
_____ (lose) weight.
22. Robert smokes a lot. If he _____ (quit) smoking, he
_____ (breathe) better.
23. Frank is always tired. If he _____ (go) to bed earlier every night, he
_____ (feel) much better.

III. In four lines, write a piece of advice for the following situations.

1. "I am worried about my little sister's attitude lately. She stopped eating meat and she barely eats anything since at home everything has meat on it. I have talked with her about it, but she told me she wouldn't stop. What would you do in my position?"

2. "My dad thinks my brother has a problem because my little brother is playing with dolls. I try to tell him that's normal but he says he has to play with cars and tools because he is a man. I tell him his way of thinking is very old fashioned but he insists that he is his father and he'll decide what's better for his son. What would you do?"

IV. Write the correct form of the verbs and complete the ideas using Third Conditional:

1. If you _____ (not / be) late, we _____ (not / miss) the bus.
2. If she _____ (study), she _____ (pass) the exam.
3. If we _____ (arrive) earlier, we _____ (see) John.
4. If they _____ (go) to bed early, they _____ (not / wake) up late.
5. If he _____ (become) a musician, he _____ (record) a CD.
6. If she _____ (go) to art school, she _____ (become) a painter.
7. If I _____ (be) born in a different country, I _____ (learn) to speak a different language.
8. If she _____ (go) to university, she _____ (study) French.
9. If we _____ (not / go) to the party, we _____ (not / meet) them.
10. If he _____ (take) the job, he _____ (not / go) travelling.
11. He _____ (be) happier if he _____ (stay) home.
12. She _____ (pass) the exam if she _____ (study) harder.
13. We _____ (not / get) married if we _____ (not / go) to the same university.
14. They _____ (be) late if they _____ (not / take) a taxi.
15. She _____ (not / meet) him if she _____ (not / come) to London.
16. He _____ (take) a taxi if he _____ (have) enough money.
17. I _____ (call) you if I _____ (not / forget) my phone.
18. We _____ (come) if we _____ (be) invited.
19. She _____ (not / do) it if she _____ (know) you were ill.
20. He _____ (be) on time if he _____ (leave) earlier.