INSTITUCIÓN EDUCATIVA MIGUEL DE CERVANTES SAAVEDRA.

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THIRD CONDITIONAL

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The Third Conditional

We make the third conditional by using the **past perfect** after 'if' and then 'would have' and the **past participle** in the second part of the sentence:

• if + past perfect, ...would + have + past participle

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

- If she had studied, she would have passed the exam (but, really we know she didn't study and so she 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

Third Conditional

for no possibility

If I had won the lottery, I would have bought a car.

The first conditional and second conditionals talk about the future. With the **third conditional** we talk about the **past**. We talk about a condition in the past that did **not** happen. That is why there is no possibility for this condition. The third conditional is also like a dream, but with **no possibility** of the dream coming true.

Last week you bought a lottery ticket. But you did not win. :-(

if	condition	result
	Past Perfect	would have + past participle
If	I had won the lottery,	I would have bought a car.

Notice that we are thinking about an impossible past condition. You did win the lottery. So the condition was not true, and that particular condition never be true because it is finished. We use the **Past Perfect** tense to the about the impossible past condition. We use **would have + past particular** talk about the impossible past result. The important thing about the third conditional is that **both the condition and result are impossible** now.

Look at these example senteces:

if	condition	result	
	Past Perfect	would have + past participle	
lf	I had seen Mary,	I would have told her.	
lf	Tara had been free yesterday,	I would have invited her.	
lf	they had not passed their exam,	their teacher would have been sad.	
lf	it had rained yesterday,	would you have stayed at home?	
lf	it had rained yesterday,	what would you have done?	

result	if	condition
would have + past participle		Past Perfect
I would have told Mary	if	I had seen her.
I would have invited Tara	if	she had been free yesterday.
Their teacher would have been sad	if	they had not passed their exam.
Would you have stayed at home	if	it had rained yesterday?
What would you have done	if	it had rained yesterday?

EnglishClub TIP

Sometimes, we use **should have**, **could have**, **might have** instead of **would have**, for example: If you had bought a lottery ticket, you **might have** won.

Mini Quiz

 The third conditional is used when both the condition and result are



- O no longer possible
- o still possible
- o always true
- 2. "If we _____ free, we would have gone with you." Which is correct?
- were
- are
- had been
- 3. "If you'd studied harder, you _____ failed." Which creates a third conditional sentence that makes sense?
- would
- would have
- wouldn't have

Third Conditional Exercise 1

Review how to make the third conditional here Download this quiz in PDF here

Third Conditional Form

Make the third conditional

1) If you		(not/be) late, we	
(not/miss	s) 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 (not/take) the job, he (go)
travelling.
[.][.]
11) He (be) happier if he (stay) at
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.
L-3L-3

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.		
[.][.]		