

CONDITIONALS

Conditionals describe the result of a certain condition. The if clause tells you the condition (If you study hard) and the main clause tells you the result (you will pass your exams). The order of the clauses does not change the meaning. If you study hard, you will pass your exams.

Mixed conditionals

We can use mixed conditionals when we imagine a past change with a result in the present or a present change with a result in the past.

1. Past/Present

Here's a sentence imagining how a change in a past situation would have a result in the present.

If I hadn't got the job in Tokyo, I wouldn't be with my current partner.

So the structure is: *If* + past perfect >> *would* + infinitive.

2. Present/Past

Here's a sentence imagining how a different situation in the present would mean that the past was different as well.

It's really important. If it wasn't, I wouldn't have called you on your holiday.

And the structure is: *If* + past simple >> *would have* + past participle.

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

English Grammar

Conditionals

Woodward's ENGLISH

CONDITION

+

RESULT

ZERO
conditional

If you stand in the rain, you get wet.
If you heat ice, it melts.

PRESENT SIMPLE

+

PRESENT SIMPLE

USES: Facts which are generally true or scientific facts
The condition always has the same result

FIRST
conditional

If it rains, we will cancel the trip.
If you study, you will pass the exam.

PRESENT SIMPLE

+

WILL / WON'T + VERB

USES: A possible situation in the future
Predicting a likely result in the future (if the condition happens)

SECOND
conditional

If I won the lottery, I would travel a lot.
If they sold their house, they would be rich.

PAST SIMPLE

+

WOULD + VERB

USES: Hypothetical or unlikely situations
Unreal or improbable situation now or in the future

THIRD
conditional

If you had studied, you would have passed the exam.
If I hadn't been sick, I would have gone to your party.

PAST PERFECT

+

WOULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

USES: The person is imagining a different past
Imaginary situation that did not happen

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PRACTICE

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