

Patrick didn't buy me any flowers or diamond rings so I didn't accept his proposal yesterday.



If Patrick **had bought** a bunch of flowers and a diamond ring, she **would have accepted** his proposal.



Usage

We use a conditional sentence to talk about the **result** of an action under a particular condition. We learnt about Type 0, 1 and 2 conditional sentences in the last unit. We are going to learn about Type 3 conditional sentences in this unit.

We use Type 3 conditional sentences to talk about conditions that **could have happened** in the past (**but it didn't in fact**). So Type 3 conditionals are also called the **past unreal conditionals**, which mean something that is contrary to the past. We often use them to **show regrets**.

e.g. *If I **had gone** to bed earlier last night, I **would have arrived** on time this morning.* (= I didn't go to bed early last night so I didn't arrive on time this morning.)

(Type 3 → talking about imaginary situations in the past)



e.g. *If Jane **had closed** the window, her cat **would not have jumped** out of it.* (= Jane didn't close the window so her cat jumped out of it.)



e.g. *My mother **would not have been** so angry if my father **had done** the housework.* (= My father didn't do the housework so my mother was very angry.)





Type 3 Conditional Sentences

We use Type 3 conditional sentences to talk about **imaginary situations (i.e. something unreal) in the past**. For Type 3 conditional sentences, we use the **past perfect tense** in the *if*-clause and **'would have + past participle'** in the main clause.

<i>If</i> -clause (situation)	Main clause (result)
If my parents had got on the plane,	they would have died in the plane crash.
If I had spent more time on my studies,	I would have passed the exam.
If Jackson had brought his P.E. uniform,	his teacher would not have punished him.

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- If we had not / hadn't adopted (not adopt) the stray cat last month, it would have lived (live) on the street.
- Larry _____ (catch) the bus if he _____ (arrive) at the bus station ten seconds earlier.
- Millions of people _____ (not die) if the two World Wars _____ in the 20th century. (not break out)
- If Joyce _____ (use) proper skin care products when she was young, her skin _____ (not be) so dry at her forties 10 years ago.



Exercise 2

Kelly's mother is complaining about her husband to her children. Complete what she says with the given words in brackets and Type 3 conditional sentences.

- If I hadn't gone to Andy Lau's concert fourteen years ago, I would not / wouldn't have met your father. (not meet / your father)
- I wouldn't have agreed to be with your father if he _____ to me every week. (not send / a dozen red roses)

3. If I had asked my parents for help, they _____
_____ for me. (find / wealthier and more successful man)
4. I would not have had so many beauty treatments in the past few years if your father
_____. (not complain about / appearance)
5. If I hadn't married your father, I _____
(become / professor at university)
6. If I had chosen a richer husband, I _____
_____ as my wedding gifts. (get / a lot of jewellery / a luxurious mansion)



Educator's Tips

In Type 3 conditional sentences, we can use the modal verbs *could* or *might* with *have* and a past participle in the main clause to show possibility or ability.

e.g. If I **had brought** a camera, I **could have taken** photos during my trip. (Ability)
(= I didn't bring my camera so I didn't take any photos during my trip.)

e.g. Your parents **might have misunderstood** you if you **hadn't explained** everything clearly. (Possibility)
(= Your parents didn't misunderstand you since you explained everything clearly.)

Exercise 3

Put the words in the correct order to form conditional sentences.

1. the car accident / had driven / Candice / more carefully / have avoided / could
If _____
Candice had driven more carefully, she could have avoided the car accident.
2. have forgiven / you / in the first place / Mum / might / had apologised / to her
_____ if _____
3. Edward / the puzzle piece / have found / had paid / could / more attention
_____ if _____
4. might / her phone number / have forgotten / had not written down / it / I
If _____

Unit Recap

Jiaxing, a sponsored child in rural China, is writing a letter to his sponsor. Help him complete the letter with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

Dear Uncle Phillips,

How are you? This is my first letter to you. I hope you won't mind if I (1) (not write) well because my English is not good. If you (2) (not sponsor) me, I (3) (not have) a chance to go to school now. Thank you so much for helping me.

Sometimes I think that God is not fair to me. If I (4) (be) a child born in a rich family, I would have a **carefree** life and I (5) (not need) to help on the farm. Also, I (6) (buy) new clothes but not wear those old clothes donated by others if I had a lot of pocket money.

However, if I (7) (not have) a hard life in the past, I (8) (not treasure) the chance of going to school. Do you believe that if a person puts great efforts in something, he (9) (get) good results? I am sure that if I work hard, I will be able to go to university. It (10) (be) easier for me to get a high-paid job in the city if I (11) (have) a good education background. I believe that if I (12) (**overcome**) all difficulties patiently, I (13) (become) successful.

I know that your birthday is coming soon. If you (14) (be) with me now, I (15) (sing) a birthday song to you. I wish you a happy birthday with your family and friends!

Write soon!

Best wishes,

Jiaxing

1. do not / don't write

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

**Vocabulary:**

carefree (adj.): not having any worries

overcome (v.): to succeed in dealing with a problem