

Mixed Conditionals — Lesson 2

C1 Grammar Lesson — Student Worksheet

Grammar Focus

Type A — Past cause → Present result

If + past perfect , would (not) + infinitive

If I hadn't left my phone at home, I would be able to call you right now.

Type B — General truth → Past result

If + past simple , would (not) have + p.p.

If he weren't so impulsive, he wouldn't have quit his job last month.

How to decide: is the condition about the past and the result about now (Type A)? Or is the condition a general truth and the result about a specific past moment (Type B)? Time markers like 'now' and 'yesterday' are strong clues.

Exercise 1 — Which Mix?

Read each situation and write your own correctly mixed conditional sentence.

1. He didn't back up his laptop last month, and that's why he has no photos now.

2. She's incredibly generous by nature, which is why she gave away her bonus to charity last month.

3. They didn't renew their passports in time, so they can't travel this weekend.

4. He's extremely competitive, which explains why he argued with the referee during yesterday's match.

5. She didn't accept the promotion, so she isn't managing the team now.

6. He's very absent-minded, which is why he left his keys at the office yesterday.

Exercise 2 — Error Identification

Each sentence contains one error, or may be correct. Underline the error and write why it's wrong (or write 'no error').

1. If I had known you were coming, I cook dinner.

Correction / reason: _____

2. If he wasn't so ambitious, he wouldn't have taken the risk.

Correction / reason: _____

3. If she had left her job, she will be travelling right now.

Correction / reason: _____

4. If they weren't so cautious, they hadn't missed the opportunity.

Correction / reason: _____

5. If we had saved more money, we wouldn't be struggling financially now.

Correction / reason: _____

6. If I am braver, I would have spoken up in the meeting yesterday.

Correction / reason: _____

Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

Put the verb in brackets into the correct mixed conditional form.

1. If he ____ (finish) the report last night, he would be free right now.

2. If she weren't so shy, she ____ (speak) up at yesterday's meeting.

3. If we ____ (book) the tickets earlier, we would be sitting together now.

4. If I weren't allergic to nuts, I ____ (try) the dessert at the party last night.

5. If you ____ (not / lose) the map, we wouldn't be wandering around right now.

6. If he weren't so stubborn, he ____ (accept) the compromise during yesterday's negotiation.

7. If they ____ (upgrade) the software last year, they wouldn't be having these problems now.

8. If she weren't so private, she ____ (mention) her promotion at dinner last night.

Exercise 4 — Combine the Facts

Combine each pair of facts into one mixed conditional sentence.

1. He didn't attend the workshop, so he can't use the new software now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

2. She's very blunt by nature — that's why she offended a client during yesterday's call. (*Type B (general → past)*)

3. I didn't practise my Spanish, so I can't communicate easily on this trip. (*Type A (past → present)*)

4. He's not very cautious — that's why he lost his wallet on the train yesterday. (*Type B (general → past)*)

5. They didn't update the security system, so they can't protect their data now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

6. She's not very tactful — that's why she embarrassed her colleague during the presentation last Friday. (*Type B (general → past)*)

Exercise 5 — Build the Sentence

Put the words below into the correct order to make a complete sentence.

1. would / now. / If / be / , / I / left / by / earlier / I / home / had

2. failed / exam. / so / lazy / wouldn't / he / have / weren't / , / the / he / If

3. now. / outside / we / , / If / the / stuck / we / weather / had / wouldn't / be / checked

4. interview / the / have / yesterday. / , / cancelled / If / were / wouldn't / she / she / confident / more

5. hadn't / sold / here / living / now. / they / , / they / If / would / house / the / be

6. I / , / weren't / so / have / the / documents. / If / forgetful / would / I / brought

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

Each sentence has one grammar mistake. Write out the full corrected sentence.

1. If I hadn't missed the bus, I am at work by now.

2. If he wasn't so careless, he hadn't broken his phone yesterday.

3. If we had watered the plants, they wouldn't dead now.

4. If she was more patient, she didn't quit the course last week.

5. If they had hired more staff, they are less overworked today.

6. If I wasn't so forgetful, I didn't bring the documents.

Exercise 7 — Your Own Sentences

Respond to each prompt with your own mixed conditional sentence.

1. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a job opportunity you turned down.

2. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a personality trait and a mistake it caused.

3. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a language you never studied.

4. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a habit and something it caused recently.

5. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a financial decision and its effect today.

6. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a general truth about yourself and a specific past event it explains.

Mixed Conditionals — Lesson 2

C1 Grammar Lesson — Answer Key

Exercise 1 — Which Mix? (model answers)

1. He didn't back up his laptop last month, and that's why he has no photos now.

If he had backed up his laptop, he would have his photos now.

2. She's incredibly generous by nature, which is why she gave away her bonus to charity last month.

If she weren't so generous, she wouldn't have given away her bonus last month.

3. They didn't renew their passports in time, so they can't travel this weekend.

If they had renewed their passports, they would be able to travel this weekend.

4. He's extremely competitive, which explains why he argued with the referee during yesterday's match.

If he weren't so competitive, he wouldn't have argued with the referee yesterday.

5. She didn't accept the promotion, so she isn't managing the team now.

If she had accepted the promotion, she would be managing the team now.

6. He's very absent-minded, which is why he left his keys at the office yesterday.

If he weren't so absent-minded, he wouldn't have left his keys at the office yesterday.

Exercise 2 — Error Identification

1. If I had known you were coming, I cook dinner.

Error: "I cook dinner" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A past-perfect if-clause needs 'would' in the main clause for a present result: 'I would cook dinner.'

2. If he wasn't so ambitious, he wouldn't have taken the risk.

Error: No error — No error — correctly formed

Correctly formed Type B mixed conditional — general trait (past simple) explaining a past result (would have + past participle).

3. If she had left her job, she will be travelling right now.

Error: "she will be travelling right now" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A past-perfect if-clause needs 'would', not 'will': 'she would be travelling right now.'

4. If they weren't so cautious, they hadn't missed the opportunity.

Error: "they hadn't missed the opportunity" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A general-trait if-clause (past simple) needs 'wouldn't have + past participle': 'they wouldn't have missed the opportunity.'

5. If we had saved more money, we wouldn't be struggling financially now.

Error: No error — No error — correctly formed

Correctly formed Type A mixed conditional — past cause (past perfect) with a present result (would + infinitive).

6. If I am braver, I would have spoken up in the meeting yesterday.

Error: "If I am braver" — Wrong verb form in the if-clause

'Would have + past participle' in the main clause needs a past-simple if-clause for a general trait: 'If I were braver...'

Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

1. If he **had finished** (finish) the report last night, he would be free right now.
2. If she weren't so shy, she **would have spoken** (speak) up at yesterday's meeting.
3. If we **had booked** (book) the tickets earlier, we would be sitting together now.
4. If I weren't allergic to nuts, I **would have tried** (try) the dessert at the party last night.
5. If you **hadn't lost** (not / lose) the map, we wouldn't be wandering around right now.
6. If he weren't so stubborn, he **would have accepted** (accept) the compromise during yesterday's negotiation.
7. If they **had upgraded** (upgrade) the software last year, they wouldn't be having these problems now.
8. If she weren't so private, she **would have mentioned** (mention) her promotion at dinner last night.

Exercise 4 — Combine the Facts

1. He didn't attend the workshop, so he can't use the new software now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

If he had attended the workshop, he would be able to use the new software now.

2. She's very blunt by nature — that's why she offended a client during yesterday's call. (*Type B (general → past)*)

If she weren't so blunt, she wouldn't have offended a client during yesterday's call.

3. I didn't practise my Spanish, so I can't communicate easily on this trip. (*Type A (past → present)*)

If I had practised my Spanish, I would be able to communicate easily on this trip.

4. He's not very cautious — that's why he lost his wallet on the train yesterday. (*Type B (general → past)*)

If he were more cautious, he wouldn't have lost his wallet on the train yesterday.

5. They didn't update the security system, so they can't protect their data now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

If they had updated the security system, they would be able to protect their data now.

6. She's not very tactful — that's why she embarrassed her colleague during the presentation last Friday. (*Type B (general → past)*)

If she were more tactful, she wouldn't have embarrassed her colleague during the presentation last Friday.

Exercise 5 — Build the Sentence

1. If I had left earlier, I would be home by now.
2. If he weren't so lazy, he wouldn't have failed the exam.
3. If we had checked the weather, we wouldn't be stuck outside now.
4. If she were more confident, she wouldn't have cancelled the interview yesterday.
5. If they hadn't sold the house, they would be living here now.
6. If I weren't so forgetful, I would have brought the documents.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

1. If I hadn't missed the bus, I am at work by now.
If I hadn't missed the bus, I would be at work by now.
2. If he wasn't so careless, he hadn't broken his phone yesterday.
If he weren't so careless, he wouldn't have broken his phone yesterday.
3. If we had watered the plants, they wouldn't dead now.
If we had watered the plants, they wouldn't be dead now.
4. If she was more patient, she didn't quit the course last week.
If she were more patient, she wouldn't have quit the course last week.
5. If they had hired more staff, they are less overworked today.
If they had hired more staff, they would be less overworked today.
6. If I wasn't so forgetful, I didn't bring the documents.
If I weren't so forgetful, I would have brought the documents.

Exercise 7 — Model Answers

Accept any grammatically correct sentence of the requested mixed type that logically fits the prompt.

1. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a job opportunity you turned down.
If I hadn't turned down that job offer, I would be earning much more now.
2. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a personality trait and a mistake it caused.
If I weren't so impulsive, I wouldn't have bought that car last month.
3. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a language you never studied.
If I had studied French at school, I would understand this contract now.
4. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a habit and something it caused recently.

If I weren't such a procrastinator, I wouldn't have missed the deadline last week.

5. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a financial decision and its effect today.

If I had invested in that company, I would be much wealthier now.

6. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a general truth about yourself and a specific past event it explains.

If I weren't so trusting, I wouldn't have lent him the money last month.