

Mixed Conditionals — Lesson 4

C1 Grammar Lesson — Student Worksheet

Grammar Focus

Type A — Past cause → Present result

If + past perfect , would (not) + infinitive

If I hadn't cancelled the gym membership, I would be in better shape now.

Type B — General truth → Past result

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

If he weren't so shy, he wouldn't have avoided the networking event yesterday.

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. She didn't water the plants while away, so they're all dead now.

2. He's very sentimental by nature, which is why he kept every ticket stub from yesterday's concert.

3. They didn't merge the two departments, so productivity isn't improving now.

4. She's naturally skeptical, which is why she questioned every claim in yesterday's presentation.

5. He didn't renew his membership, so he can't access the gym now.

6. She's not very assertive by nature, which is why she agreed to the unfair deadline 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 backed up the file, I am redoing all this work now.

Correction / reason: _____

2. If she weren't so private, she wouldn't have hidden the news.

Correction / reason: _____

3. If he had taken the medication, he will be feeling better now.

Correction / reason: _____

4. If they weren't so impulsive, they hadn't overspent on the renovation.

Correction / reason: _____

5. If we had left the party earlier, we wouldn't be so tired now.

Correction / reason: _____

6. If I am more organised, I would have submitted the application on time.

Correction / reason: _____

Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

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

1. If she ____ (renew) her licence last year, she would be driving now.

2. If he weren't so shy, he ____ (introduce) himself at yesterday's networking event.

3. If we ____ (label) the boxes properly, we wouldn't be searching for things now.

4. If I weren't so indecisive, I ____ (choose) a university course sooner.

5. If you ____ (not / skip) breakfast, you wouldn't be so hungry right now.

6. If he weren't so guarded, he ____ (open up) about his worries during yesterday's session.

7. If they ____ (back up) the database last week, they wouldn't be rebuilding it now.

8. If she weren't so nervous, she ____ (raise) her hand during yesterday's Q&A.;

Exercise 4 — Combine the Facts

Combine each pair of facts into one mixed conditional sentence.

1. He didn't renew his passport, so he can't board the flight now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

2. She's very impulsive by nature — that's why she quit her job without notice last month. (*Type B (general → past)*)

3. I didn't save the draft, so I can't recover my essay now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

4. He's not very observant — that's why he missed the typo in yesterday's email. (*Type B (general → past)*)

5. They didn't calibrate the machine, so they can't trust the readings now. (*Type A (past → present)*)

6. She's not very forthcoming — that's why she withheld information during yesterday's interview. (*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 / booked / less / earlier / I / paying / had

2. missed / chance. / so / shy / wouldn't / he / have / weren't / , / the / he / If

3. now. / it / we / , / If / the / redoing / we / file / had / wouldn't / be / saved

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

5. hadn't / merged / separately / working / now. / they / , / we / If / would / teams / the / be

6. I / , / weren't / so / have / the / opportunity. / If / cautious / would / I / taken

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

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

1. If I had booked earlier, I am paying less now.

2. If he wasn't so shy, he hadn't missed the chance.

3. If we had saved the file, we wouldn't redoing it now.

4. If she was more confident, she didn't cancel the presentation yesterday.

5. If they hadn't merged the teams, we are working separately now.

6. If I wasn't so cautious, I hadn't taken the opportunity.

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 subscription or membership you cancelled.

2. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a personality trait and an opportunity it affected.

3. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a piece of technology you never bought.

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 piece of advice you ignored.

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 4

C1 Grammar Lesson — Answer Key

Exercise 1 — Which Mix? (model answers)

1. She didn't water the plants while away, so they're all dead now.

If she had watered the plants, they wouldn't be all dead now.

2. He's very sentimental by nature, which is why he kept every ticket stub from yesterday's concert.

If he weren't so sentimental, he wouldn't have kept every ticket stub from yesterday's concert.

3. They didn't merge the two departments, so productivity isn't improving now.

If they had merged the two departments, productivity would be improving now.

4. She's naturally skeptical, which is why she questioned every claim in yesterday's presentation.

If she weren't so skeptical, she wouldn't have questioned every claim in yesterday's presentation.

5. He didn't renew his membership, so he can't access the gym now.

If he had renewed his membership, he would be able to access the gym now.

6. She's not very assertive by nature, which is why she agreed to the unfair deadline yesterday.

If she were more assertive, she wouldn't have agreed to the unfair deadline yesterday.

Exercise 2 — Error Identification

1. If I had backed up the file, I am redoing all this work now.

Error: "I am redoing all this work now" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A past-perfect if-clause needs 'would' in the main clause for a present result: 'I wouldn't be redoing all this work now.'

2. If she weren't so private, she wouldn't have hidden the news.

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 he had taken the medication, he will be feeling better now.

Error: "he will be feeling better now" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

A past-perfect if-clause needs 'would', not 'will': 'he would be feeling better now.'

4. If they weren't so impulsive, they hadn't overspent on the renovation.

Error: "they hadn't overspent on the renovation" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

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

5. If we had left the party earlier, we wouldn't be so tired 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 more organised, I would have submitted the application on time.

Error: "If I am more organised" — 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 more organised...'

Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

1. If she **had renewed** (renew) her licence last year, she would be driving now.
2. If he weren't so shy, he **would have introduced** (introduce) himself at yesterday's networking event.
3. If we **had labelled** (label) the boxes properly, we wouldn't be searching for things now.
4. If I weren't so indecisive, I **would have chosen** (choose) a university course sooner.
5. If you **hadn't skipped** (not / skip) breakfast, you wouldn't be so hungry right now.
6. If he weren't so guarded, he **would have opened up** (open up) about his worries during yesterday's session.
7. If they **had backed up** (back up) the database last week, they wouldn't be rebuilding it now.
8. If she weren't so nervous, she **would have raised** (raise) her hand during yesterday's Q&A.;

Exercise 4 — Combine the Facts

1. He didn't renew his passport, so he can't board the flight now. (*Type A (past → present)*)
If he had renewed his passport, he would be able to board the flight now.
2. She's very impulsive by nature — that's why she quit her job without notice last month. (*Type B (general → past)*)
If she weren't so impulsive, she wouldn't have quit her job without notice last month.
3. I didn't save the draft, so I can't recover my essay now. (*Type A (past → present)*)
If I had saved the draft, I would be able to recover my essay now.
4. He's not very observant — that's why he missed the typo in yesterday's email. (*Type B (general → past)*)
If he were more observant, he wouldn't have missed the typo in yesterday's email.
5. They didn't calibrate the machine, so they can't trust the readings now. (*Type A (past → present)*)
If they had calibrated the machine, they would be able to trust the readings now.
6. She's not very forthcoming — that's why she withheld information during yesterday's interview. (*Type B (general → past)*)

If she were more forthcoming, she wouldn't have withheld information during yesterday's interview.

Exercise 5 — Build the Sentence

1. If I had booked earlier, I would be paying less now.
2. If he weren't so shy, he wouldn't have missed the chance.
3. If we had saved the file, we wouldn't be redoing it now.
4. If she were more confident, she wouldn't have cancelled the presentation yesterday.
5. If they hadn't merged the teams, we would be working separately now.
6. If I weren't so cautious, I would have taken the opportunity.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

1. If I had booked earlier, I am paying less now.
If I had booked earlier, I would be paying less now.
2. If he wasn't so shy, he hadn't missed the chance.
If he weren't so shy, he wouldn't have missed the chance.
3. If we had saved the file, we wouldn't redoing it now.
If we had saved the file, we wouldn't be redoing it now.
4. If she was more confident, she didn't cancel the presentation yesterday.
If she were more confident, she wouldn't have cancelled the presentation yesterday.
5. If they hadn't merged the teams, we are working separately now.
If they hadn't merged the teams, we would be working separately now.
6. If I wasn't so cautious, I hadn't taken the opportunity.
If I weren't so cautious, I would have taken the opportunity.

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 subscription or membership you cancelled.
If I hadn't cancelled my gym membership, I would be much fitter now.
2. Write a mixed conditional (present trait → past result) about a personality trait and an opportunity it affected.
If I weren't so shy, I wouldn't have missed the chance to network at yesterday's event.
3. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a piece of technology you never bought.
If I had bought a proper laptop years ago, I would be far more productive now.

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

If I weren't such a night owl, I wouldn't have been so tired at yesterday's meeting.

5. Write a mixed conditional (past cause → present result) about a piece of advice you ignored.

If I had listened to that advice, I would be in a much better position 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 competitive, I wouldn't have argued about the score yesterday.