

Mixed Conditionals

C1 Grammar Lesson — Student Worksheet

Grammar Focus

Type A — Past cause → Present result

If + past perfect , would (not) + infinitive

If I hadn't missed the flight, I would be home by now.

Type B — General truth → Past result

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

If she weren't so stubborn, she wouldn't have argued with the client.

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's exhausted right now because he didn't sleep at all last night.

2. She's naturally impatient, and that's why she snapped at a colleague yesterday.

3. He didn't apply for the scholarship, so he isn't studying abroad now.

4. She's generally terrible with directions, which is why she got lost on the way to the venue yesterday.

5. They didn't back up the servers last month, and that's why they're losing so much data now.

6. He isn't very diplomatic by nature, which is why he upset a client during yesterday's call.

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 about the traffic, I leave earlier.

Correction / reason: _____

2. If she wasn't so shy, she wouldn't have missed the opportunity.

Correction / reason: _____

3. If he had taken the job, he will be earning more now.

Correction / reason: _____

4. If they weren't so disorganised, they hadn't lost the contract.

Correction / reason: _____

5. If we had left earlier, we wouldn't be stuck in traffic now.

Correction / reason: _____

6. If I am taller, I would have played basketball professionally.

Correction / reason: _____

Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

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

1. If she ____ (study) harder at university, she would have a better job now.
2. If he weren't so careless, he ____ (not / lose) his passport yesterday.
3. If they ____ (invest) in marketing last year, they would be more profitable today.
4. If I weren't allergic to cats, I ____ (adopt) one when I saw the shelter post.
5. If you ____ (not / forget) the tickets, we would be at the concert right now.
6. If she weren't so private, she ____ (share) more details at the meeting.
7. If we ____ (plan) the trip better, we wouldn't be lost right now.
8. If he weren't so tired all the time, he ____ (perform) better in yesterday's match.

Exercise 4 — Combine the Facts

Combine each pair of facts into one mixed conditional sentence.

1. She didn't save any money, so she can't buy a house now. (Type A (past → present))

2. He's naturally reckless — that's why he crashed the car last week. (Type B (general → past))

3. I didn't learn to drive, so I can't get to work easily now. (Type A (past → present))

4. She's not very patient — that's why she lost her temper during the negotiation yesterday. (Type B (general → past))

5. They didn't renew the licence, so they can't operate the machine now. (Type A (past → present))

6. He's not very organised — that's why he missed the deadline 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 / abroad / job / taken / , / I / living / that / I / be / had

2. lost / client. / so / stubborn / wouldn't / she / have / weren't / , / the / she / If

3. now. / much / we / we / If / earlier / this / wouldn't / , / had / be / paying / booked

4. vase / the / have / yesterday. / , / broken / If / were / wouldn't / he / he / careful / more

5. hadn't / cancelled / right / celebrating / now. / they / , / we / If / would / project / the / be

6. I / , / weren't / so / have / you / move / If / busy / would / I / helped / house.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

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

1. If I had studied law, I am a lawyer now.

2. If she wasn't so nervous, she hadn't forgotten her lines yesterday.

3. If we had left on time, we wouldn't stuck in traffic now.

4. If he was more careful, he didn't break the vase yesterday.

5. If they had invested sooner, they are more profitable today.

6. If I wasn't so shy, I hadn't missed the chance to speak yesterday.

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 decision you regret.

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

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

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

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

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

Mixed Conditionals

C1 Grammar Lesson — Answer Key

Exercise 1 — Which Mix? (model answers)

1. He's exhausted right now because he didn't sleep at all last night.

If he had slept last night, he wouldn't be so exhausted now.

2. She's naturally impatient, and that's why she snapped at a colleague yesterday.

If she weren't so impatient, she wouldn't have snapped at her colleague yesterday.

3. He didn't apply for the scholarship, so he isn't studying abroad now.

If he had applied for the scholarship, he would be studying abroad now.

4. She's generally terrible with directions, which is why she got lost on the way to the venue yesterday.

If she weren't so bad with directions, she wouldn't have got lost yesterday.

5. They didn't back up the servers last month, and that's why they're losing so much data now.

If they had backed up the servers, they wouldn't be losing so much data now.

6. He isn't very diplomatic by nature, which is why he upset a client during yesterday's call.

If he were more diplomatic, he wouldn't have upset the client yesterday.

Exercise 2 — Error Identification

1. If I had known about the traffic, I leave earlier.

Error: "I leave earlier" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

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

2. If she wasn't so shy, she wouldn't have missed the opportunity.

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 job, he will be earning more now.

Error: "he will be earning more now" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

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

4. If they weren't so disorganised, they hadn't lost the contract.

Error: "they hadn't lost the contract" — Wrong verb form in the main clause

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

5. If we had left earlier, we wouldn't be stuck in traffic 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 taller, I would have played basketball professionally.

Error: "If I am taller" — 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 taller...'

Exercise 3 — Gap Fill

1. If she **had studied** (study) harder at university, she would have a better job now.
2. If he weren't so careless, he **wouldn't have lost** (not / lose) his passport yesterday.
3. If they **had invested** (invest) in marketing last year, they would be more profitable today.
4. If I weren't allergic to cats, I **would have adopted** (adopt) one when I saw the shelter post.
5. If you **hadn't forgotten** (not / forget) the tickets, we would be at the concert right now.
6. If she weren't so private, she **would have shared** (share) more details at the meeting.
7. If we **had planned** (plan) the trip better, we wouldn't be lost right now.
8. If he weren't so tired all the time, he **would have performed** (perform) better in yesterday's match.

Exercise 4 — Combine the Facts

1. She didn't save any money, so she can't buy a house now. *(Type A (past → present))*
If she had saved money, she would be able to buy a house now.
2. He's naturally reckless — that's why he crashed the car last week. *(Type B (general → past))*
If he weren't so reckless, he wouldn't have crashed the car last week.
3. I didn't learn to drive, so I can't get to work easily now. *(Type A (past → present))*
If I had learned to drive, I would be able to get to work easily now.
4. She's not very patient — that's why she lost her temper during the negotiation yesterday. *(Type B (general → past))*
If she were more patient, she wouldn't have lost her temper during the negotiation yesterday.
5. They didn't renew the licence, so they can't operate the machine now. *(Type A (past → present))*
If they had renewed the licence, they would be able to operate the machine now.
6. He's not very organised — that's why he missed the deadline last Friday. *(Type B (general → past))*
If he were more organised, he wouldn't have missed the deadline last Friday.

Exercise 5 — Build the Sentence

1. If I had taken that job, I would be living abroad now.
2. If she weren't so stubborn, she wouldn't have lost the client.
3. If we had booked earlier, we wouldn't be paying this much now.
4. If he were more careful, he wouldn't have broken the vase yesterday.
5. If they hadn't cancelled the project, we would be celebrating right now.
6. If I weren't so busy, I would have helped you move house.

Exercise 6 — Correct the Mistake

1. If I had studied law, I am a lawyer now.

If I had studied law, I would be a lawyer now.

2. If she wasn't so nervous, she hadn't forgotten her lines yesterday.

If she weren't so nervous, she wouldn't have forgotten her lines yesterday.

3. If we had left on time, we wouldn't stuck in traffic now.

If we had left on time, we wouldn't be stuck in traffic now.

4. If he was more careful, he didn't break the vase yesterday.

If he were more careful, he wouldn't have broken the vase yesterday.

5. If they had invested sooner, they are more profitable today.

If they had invested sooner, they would be more profitable today.

6. If I wasn't so shy, I hadn't missed the chance to speak yesterday.

If I weren't so shy, I wouldn't have missed the chance to speak yesterday.

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 decision you regret.

If I had taken that internship, I would be working in finance now.

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

If I weren't so disorganised, I wouldn't have missed the deadline last week.

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

If I had learned to code, I would have far more job options now.

4. 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 such a perfectionist, I wouldn't have spent so long on the report last week.

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

If the company had invested in training, staff would be more confident now.

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

If I weren't such a night owl, I wouldn't have overslept yesterday.