

Third Conditional

Point 1: We construct the third conditional using "if" + past perfect (had + past participle).

1. If I had studied more in school, I would have gotten better grades.
2. If we had left earlier, we would have caught the train.
3. If she had known the truth, she wouldn't have believed him.
4. If I had stayed home, I would not have gotten in trouble.

Point 2: The third conditional is employed to express outcomes that are beyond our control or have already occurred, thus cannot be changed.

1. If I were you, I would have said something.
2. If we had won the match, I would have been ecstatic.
3. If they had invited us, we would have attended the party.
4. If she was upset, she would have said something.

Point 3: The third conditional clause can go before or after the main clause.

1. I would have said something if I were you.
2. I would have been ecstatic if we had won the match,
3. We would have attended the party if they had invited us.
4. She would have said something if she was upset.

Point 4: The modal "would" is contracted and barely heard in spoken English.

1. I'd have said something if I were you.
2. I'd have been ecstatic if we had won the match,
3. We'd have attended the party if they had invited us.
4. She'd have said something if she was upset.

Third Conditional

Watch four videos using **the third conditional** in conversation.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: What did you do last night?

Woman: I saw the new James Bond movie.

Man: Oh, I love 007.

Woman: Oh really? If I **had known** that, I **would've asked** you to come.

Man: That's all right. Maybe next time.

Woman: Well, you're really going to love this movie. Especially ...

Man: Wait, wait. Don't spoil it. I'm seeing it tonight.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Hey, you're back in town. I thought you were in New York.

Woman: I was, but I came home early.

Man: Oh, when did you get in?

Woman: Last night at midnight. Getting a taxi home was a nightmare.

Man: Well, if you **had told** me, I **would've picked** you **up**.

Woman: No worries. The traffic was so bad. If you **had**, you **would've regretted** it.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: How did you do on the test?

Woman: Not good. I failed. I was so close to passing, too.

Man: Oh, no. I'm sorry to hear that.

Woman: Yeah. If I **had** just **answered** one more question correctly, I **would've passed**.

Man: Well, I hate to say it, but if you **had studied**, you also **might've passed**.

Woman: Sad, but true

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: So, how was your job interview?

Man: Not good. I think I bombed it.

Woman: Oh, I'm sure it was fine.

Man: No, really. I was late, and I could not answer any questions well. I kept fumbling for words.

Woman: Well, if they **weren't interested** in you, they **wouldn't have interviewed** you.

Man: Maybe. But if I **had done** better today, I am sure they **would've liked** me a lot more.

Woman: Maybe. But you never know.

Quiz

Answer these questions about the interview.

1) What did the woman not know?

- a) He was free.
- b) He liked 007 movies.**
- c) He was at the movies.

2) What does the man say he would have done?

- a) Call her a cab
- b) Pick her up.**
- c) Lend her his car.

3) Why does he say he should have done?

- a) **Studied more**
- b) Studied with her
- c) Answered all the questions

4) How did he do on the interview?

- a) Great
- b) **Not good**
- c) She is not sure

Gap Fill: Listen to the audio. Type in the correct word!

Conversation 1

Man: What did you do **leastlast** night?

Woman: I **sawsee** the new James Bond movie.

Man: Oh, I **livelove** 007.

Woman: Oh really? If I had **knewknown** that, I would've asked you to come.

Man: That's all right. Maybe **lastnext** time.

Woman: Well, you're really **gogoing** to love this movie. Especially ...

Man: Wait, wait. Don't **spillspoil** it. I'm seeing it tonight.

Conversation 2

Man: Hey, you're back in town. I thought you **werewas** in New York.

Woman: I was, but I **comecame** home early.

Man: Oh, when did you **gettingget** in?

Woman: Last night at midnight. **GetGetting** a taxi home was a nightmare.

Man: Well, if you had told me, I would've **pickedpick** you up.

Woman: No worries. The traffic was so bad. If you had, you would've **regretregretted** it.

Conversation 3

Man: How did you do **inon** the test?

Woman: Not good. I failed. I was so **closedclose** to passing, too.

Man: Oh, no. I'm sorry to **hearheard** that.

Woman: Yeah. If I had just **answeranswered** one more question correctly, I would've **passedpass**.

Man: Well, I hate to say it, but if you had **studiedstudy**, you also might've **passpassed**.

Woman: Sad, but **truthtrue**

Conversation 4

Woman: So, how **waswere** your job interview?

Man: Not good. I think I **bombedbomb** it.

Woman: Oh, I'm sure it was **funfine**.

Man: No, really. I was late, and I could not **answeredanswer** any questions well. I kept **fumbledfumbling** for words.

Woman: Well, if they weren't **interestinginterested** in you, they wouldn't have **interviewedinterview** you.

Man: Maybe. But if I had **diddone** better today, I am sure they would've **likeliked** me a lot more.

Woman: Maybe. But you never **knowknows**.

Corporate Terminology - Leadership

Ahead of the Curve

Meaning: To be ahead of the competition or trend.

Example: "The company's innovative approach to marketing kept them ahead of the curve."

Big Picture

Meaning: To see the overall view of the situation.

Example: "The CEO always focuses on the big picture and avoids getting bogged down in minor details."

Call the Shots

Meaning: To be in charge and make the decisions.

Example: "The project manager has the final say and calls the shots."

Cut Some Slack

Meaning: To be lenient and give someone a break.

Example: "The team leader decided to cut his colleague some slack and give him more time to complete the task."