

Mixed Conditionals

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Mixed conditionals refer to conditional sentences that combine two different types of conditional patterns. The mixed conditional is used to refer to a time in the past, and a situation that is ongoing in the present.

If I had won the lottery, I would buy a huge house. (I didn't win the lottery in the past and I'm living in a small apartment right now.)

The most common mixed conditional is when we have a third conditional in the *if* clause (*if + past perfect*) followed by a second conditional (*would + the base form of the verb*) in the main clause. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + past perfect	would + V
<i>If Kate had studied more,</i>	<i>she would have a better GPA.</i>
<i>If he had started painting the picture in June,</i>	<i>it would be finished now.</i>

The less common mixed conditional is when we have a second conditional in the *if* clause (*if* + *past simple*) followed by a third conditional (*would have* + *past participle*) in the main clause. This conditional refers to an unreal present situation and its possible (but unreal) past result.

If I wasn't afraid of flying, I would have travelled by air. (I am afraid of flying in general. And that time I travelled by train.)

Short Story Dialogue

– *This is kind of upsetting. I know that **if** I had studied more, I would pass the exams successfully and choose another major.*

– *If you feel like you have enough motivation, you can still try. It's never too late to start, right?*

– *Yeah, but **if** I had submitted the documents this summer, I would be able to start studying this month. I guess I have to wait now and study more.*

Independent Practice - Mixed Conditionals

1) Match the sentences.

a. If we had talked more,	1. they would be still together.
b. Patricia would have baked something	2. I would have gone camping.
c. If my parents had argued less,	3. we would be close friends.
d. I would be in Greece now	4. if I had asked her number.
e. If I wasn't afraid of insects,	5. if I had booked the flights.
f. I would go on a date with Kate	6. if he had a car.
g. Mike wouldn't have walked to work	7. if she liked sweet things.

2) Write three sentences with mixed conditionals.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Mixed Conditionals

1) Match the sentences.

a. If we had talked more,	3. we would be close friends.
b. Patricia would have baked something	7. if she liked sweet things.
c. If my parents had argued less,	1. they would be still together.
d. I would be in Greece now	5. if I had booked the flights.
e. If I wasn't afraid of insects,	2. I would have gone camping.
f. I would go on a date with Kate	4. if I had asked her number.
g. Mike wouldn't have walked to work	6. if he had a car.

2) Write three sentences with mixed conditionals. Sample Answers:

- a. If I had submitted my homework on time, I would be free now.
- b. She would be happier if she had gone to therapy.
- c. If he had gone to college, he might have a better job.