

## third conditional

If I'd known you had a problem, I **would have helped** you. 🔊 9.4

If Paul **hadn't gone** to Brazil, he **wouldn't have met** his wife.

**Would** you **have gone** to the party if you'd known Lisa was there?

You **wouldn't have lost** your job if you **hadn't been** late every day.



- We normally use third conditional sentences to talk about hypothetical / imaginary situations in the past, i.e. how things could have been different in the past. Compare:  
*Yesterday I got up late and missed my train.* (= the real situation)  
*If I hadn't got up late yesterday, I wouldn't have missed my train.* (= the hypothetical or imaginary past situation)
- To make a third conditional, we use *if* + past perfect and *would have* + past participle. **NOT** ~~*If I would have known you had a problem...*~~
- The contraction of both *had* and *would* is 'd.  
*If I'd have known you had a problem, I'd have helped you.*
- We can use *might* or *could* instead of *would* to make the result less certain.  
*If she'd studied harder, she might have passed the exam.*

**a Match the sentence halves.**

Billy wouldn't have injured his head

1 If I hadn't seen the speed camera,

2 Jon might have got the job

3 She would have hurt herself badly

4 If Katy and Luke hadn't caught the same train,

5 What would you have studied

6 How would you have got to the airport

7 If you'd worn a warmer coat,

8 Your parents would have enjoyed the trip

9 Would you have been annoyed

**D**

A if you'd gone to university?

B you wouldn't have caught a cold.

C if she'd told you the truth?

~~D if he'd worn his helmet.~~

E they wouldn't have met.

F if he'd been on time for his interview.

G if they'd come with us.

H if she'd fallen down the stairs.

I I wouldn't have slowed down.

J if the trains had been on strike?

**b Complete the third conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

If Tom hadn't gone to university, he wouldn't have got a job with that company. (not go, not get)

1 If you \_\_\_\_\_ me to the station, I \_\_\_\_\_ my train. (not take, miss)

2 We \_\_\_\_\_ the match if the referee \_\_\_\_\_ us a penalty. (not win, not give)

3 You \_\_\_\_\_ the weekend if you \_\_\_\_\_ with us. (enjoy, come)

4 If I \_\_\_\_\_ the theatre tickets online, they \_\_\_\_\_ more expensive. (not buy, be)

5 Mike \_\_\_\_\_ his wife's birthday if she \_\_\_\_\_ him. (forget, not remind)

6 If the police \_\_\_\_\_ five minutes later, they \_\_\_\_\_ the thief. (arrive, not catch)

7 If you \_\_\_\_\_ me the money, I \_\_\_\_\_ to go away for the weekend. (not lend, not be able)

8 That girl \_\_\_\_\_ in the river if you \_\_\_\_\_ her arm! (fall, not catch)

9 We \_\_\_\_\_ the hotel if we \_\_\_\_\_ the signpost. (not find, not seen)

10 If I \_\_\_\_\_ about the job, I \_\_\_\_\_ for it. (know, apply)

## 1 GRAMMAR third conditional

### a Complete the sentences with *had* or *would have*.

- 1 If I'd known it was your birthday, I'd have \_\_\_\_\_ bought you a present.
- 2 It \_\_\_\_\_ been quicker if we'd gone by train. Our flight was very delayed.
- 3 Harry wouldn't have been late for work if the bus \_\_\_\_\_ been on time.
- 4 I'm sure that if David \_\_\_\_\_ seen you, he would have said hello.
- 5 I \_\_\_\_\_ gone to their party if they'd invited me, but they didn't.
- 6 If you'd got up earlier, you \_\_\_\_\_ had time to make your bed.
- 7 If Kim \_\_\_\_\_ paid attention in class, she would have known about the exam.
- 8 You wouldn't have fallen asleep at the cinema if you \_\_\_\_\_ had a rest this afternoon.

### b Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 If you'd told me you weren't staying for dinner, I wouldn't have made so much food. (not make)
- 2 We \_\_\_\_\_ on time if we'd left half an hour earlier. (arrive)
- 3 If we \_\_\_\_\_ a table, we wouldn't have been able to have dinner there. (not book)
- 4 You'd have seen my message if you \_\_\_\_\_ your mobile phone. (check)
- 5 I'd have enjoyed the party more if the music \_\_\_\_\_ so loud. (not be)
- 6 If you'd concentrated on what you were doing, you \_\_\_\_\_ so many mistakes. (not make)
- 7 If I \_\_\_\_\_ it was going to be so cold today, I would have worn a warmer coat. (know)
- 8 We \_\_\_\_\_ Joe to dinner too if we'd known you didn't like him. (not invite)
- 9 If you \_\_\_\_\_ so rude about my mother, I wouldn't have got so angry. (not be)
- 10 My sister \_\_\_\_\_ promoted if she'd refused to do overtime. (not get)

### c Complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 I got to the restaurant late because I went to the wrong place first.  
If I hadn't gone to the wrong place first, I wouldn't have got to the restaurant late.
- 2 I passed my final exams, so I went to university.  
I wouldn't have gone to university if \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 Helen didn't have the right qualifications, so she didn't get the job.  
If Helen had had the right qualifications, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 We had lunch before we left, so we weren't hungry.  
We would have been hungry if \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 We didn't play tennis this afternoon because it was windy.  
If it hadn't been so windy this afternoon, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 You got lost because you didn't follow my directions.  
You wouldn't have got lost if \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 I didn't win that game because you cheated.  
If you hadn't cheated, \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Alex wasn't very careful with his glasses, so he broke them.  
If Alex had been more careful with his glasses, \_\_\_\_\_.

