

GRAMMAR

B2

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Mixed conditionals



A) PAST CONDITION → PRESENT/FUTURE RESULT

THIS STRUCTURE DESCRIBES HOW A PAST ACTION (OR INACTION) AFFECTS THE PRESENT OR FUTURE.

◆ STRUCTURE:

IF + PAST PERFECT (HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE), WOULD + BASE VERB (PRESENT RESULT).

◆ MEANING:

- THE CONDITION DID NOT HAPPEN IN THE PAST.
- AS A RESULT, THE PRESENT OR FUTURE IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT COULD HAVE BEEN.

◆ EXAMPLES:

- IF I HAD STUDIED HARDER, I WOULD HAVE A BETTER JOB NOW.
[I DIDN'T STUDY HARD IN THE PAST, SO NOW I DON'T HAVE A GOOD JOB.]
- IF SHE HAD SAVED MORE MONEY, SHE WOULDN'T BE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY NOW.
[SHE DIDN'T SAVE MONEY BEFORE, SO NOW SHE HAS FINANCIAL PROBLEMS.]
- IF THEY HAD LEFT EARLIER, THEY WOULDN'T BE STUCK IN TRAFFIC.
[THEY LEFT LATE, SO THEY ARE STUCK IN TRAFFIC NOW.]

TYPES OF MIXED
CONDITIONALS

B) PRESENT CONDITION → PAST RESULT

THIS STRUCTURE DESCRIBES HOW A PRESENT OR GENERAL SITUATION AFFECTED A PAST EVENT.

◆ STRUCTURE:

IF + PAST SIMPLE [WERE/DID/HAD, ETC.], WOULD HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE (PAST RESULT).

◆ MEANING:

- THE CONDITION IS STILL TRUE IN THE PRESENT.
- HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THIS PRESENT REALITY, SOMETHING DID NOT HAPPEN IN THE PAST.

◆ EXAMPLES:

- IF I WERE TALLER, I WOULD HAVE PLAYED PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL.
- [I AM NOT TALL, AND THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T PLAY BASKETBALL IN THE PAST.]
- IF SHE SPOKE SPANISH, SHE WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE JOB.
- [SHE DOESN'T SPEAK SPANISH, SO SHE DIDN'T GET THE JOB.]
- IF THEY WERE MORE RESPONSIBLE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED THE DEADLINE.
- [THEY ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE, AND THAT'S WHY THEY MISSED IT IN THE PAST.]

TYPES OF MIXED
CONDITIONALS



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MIXED CONDITIONALS ALLOW US TO EXPRESS COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN DIFFERENT TIME PERIODS.

WE USE THEM WHEN:

- ✓ WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT HYPOTHETICAL SITUATIONS AFFECTING DIFFERENT TIMES.
 - ✓ WE WANT TO EXPRESS REGRET OR IMAGINE ALTERNATIVE REALITIES.
 - ✓ WE WANT TO SOUND MORE FLUENT AND NATURAL IN ENGLISH.
- FOR EXAMPLE:
- ✗ IF I HAD STUDIED HARDER, I WOULD HAVE PASSED THE TEST. [ONLY TALKS ABOUT THE PAST.]
 - ✓ IF I HAD STUDIED HARDER, I WOULDN'T BE SO STRESSED ABOUT MY RESULTS NOW. [CONNECTS PAST ACTIONS TO PRESENT CONSEQUENCES.]

WHY DO WE USE MIXED CONDITIONALS?



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COMMON MISTAKES &
HOW TO AVOID THEM

1 WRONG: IF I WOULD HAVE STUDIED HARDER, I WOULD BE AT UNIVERSITY NOW.

✓ CORRECT: IF I HAD STUDIED HARDER, I WOULD BE AT UNIVERSITY NOW.

[NEVER USE "WOULD HAVE" IN THE IF-CLAUSE! USE PAST PERFECT INSTEAD.]

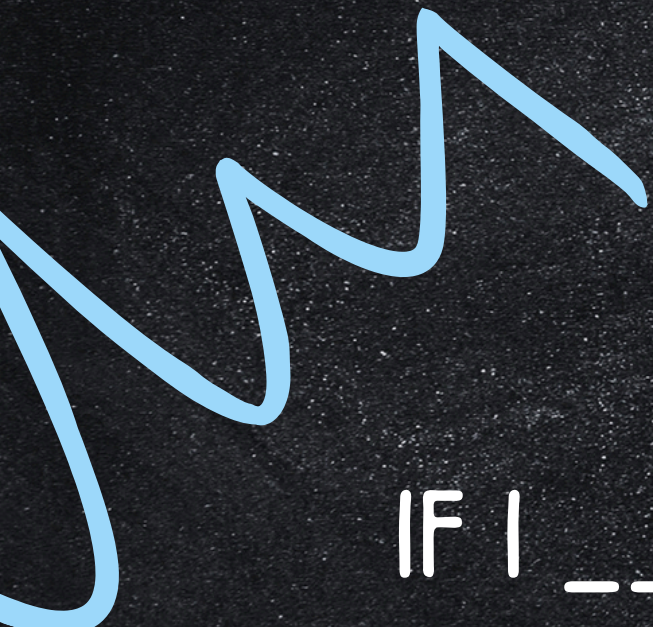
2 WRONG: IF SHE LEFT EARLIER, SHE WOULDN'T BE STUCK IN TRAFFIC NOW.

✓ CORRECT: IF SHE HAD LEFT EARLIER, SHE WOULDN'T BE STUCK IN TRAFFIC NOW.

[THE CONDITION HAPPENED IN THE PAST, SO WE NEED "HAD LEFT."] 

3 WRONG: IF I WERE RICH, I WILL HAVE BOUGHT THAT CAR.

✓ CORRECT: IF I WERE RICH, I WOULD HAVE BOUGHT THAT CAR.
[MIXING FUTURE AND PAST INCORRECTLY—USE "WOULD HAVE" FOR PAST RESULTS.]  



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PRACTICE

IF I _____ [WAKE UP] EARLIER, I WOULDN'T BE LATE
FOR WORK NOW.

IF SHE _____ [BE] MORE CONFIDENT, SHE WOULD HAVE
SPOKEN IN THE MEETING.

IF WE _____ [NOT SPEND] SO MUCH MONEY LAST
MONTH, WE WOULDN'T BE BROKE NOW.

IF HE _____ [KNOW] ABOUT THE SURPRISE, HE
WOULDN'T HAVE REACTED THAT WAY.





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ANSWER KEY

IF I HAD WOKEN UP EARLIER, I WOULDN'T BE LATE FOR WORK
NOW.

IF SHE WERE MORE CONFIDENT, SHE WOULD HAVE SPOKEN IN
THE MEETING.

IF WE HAD NOT SPENT SO MUCH MONEY LAST MONTH, WE
WOULDN'T BE BROKE NOW.

IF HE HAD KNOWN ABOUT THE SURPRISE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE
REACTED THAT WAY.





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A) FILL IN THE GAPS

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE CORRECT MIXED CONDITIONAL FORM.

IF I _____ [STUDY] HARDER AT SCHOOL, I WOULD HAVE A BETTER JOB NOW.

IF SHE _____ [BE] MORE CAREFUL, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE ACCIDENT.

IF WE _____ [NOT MISS] THE FLIGHT, WE WOULD BE IN SPAIN RIGHT NOW.

IF HE _____ [SAVE] MORE MONEY, HE WOULDN'T BE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY NOW.

IF THEY _____ [SPEAK] ENGLISH FLUENTLY, THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE JOB.

IF I _____ [NOT MAKE] THAT MISTAKE, EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE NOW.

IF SHE _____ [BE] MORE PATIENT, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE ARGUED WITH HER BOSS.

PRACTICE





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ANSWER KEY

A) FILL IN THE GAPS

IF I HAD STUDIED HARDER AT SCHOOL, I WOULD HAVE A BETTER JOB NOW.

IF SHE WERE MORE CAREFUL, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD THE ACCIDENT.

IF WE HAD NOT MISSED THE FLIGHT, WE WOULD BE IN SPAIN RIGHT NOW.

IF HE HAD SAVED MORE MONEY, HE WOULDN'T BE STRUGGLING FINANCIALLY NOW.

IF THEY SPOKE ENGLISH FLUENTLY, THEY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE JOB.

IF I HAD NOT MADE THAT MISTAKE, EVERYTHING WOULD BE FINE NOW.

IF SHE WERE MORE PATIENT, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE ARGUED WITH HER BOSS.





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PRACTICE

B) REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING MIXED CONDITIONALS

REWRITE EACH SENTENCE TO INCLUDE A MIXED CONDITIONAL STRUCTURE.

I DIDN'T GO TO UNIVERSITY, SO I DON'T HAVE A DEGREE.

→ IF I HAD GONE TO UNIVERSITY, I WOULD HAVE A DEGREE.

SHE DIDN'T TAKE DRIVING LESSONS, SO SHE STILL DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO DRIVE.

→

I DON'T SPEAK FRENCH, SO I DIDN'T GET THE JOB IN PARIS.

→

HE DIDN'T WAKE UP ON TIME, SO HE IS LATE FOR WORK.

→

THEY AREN'T RICH, SO THEY COULDN'T BUY THAT HOUSE.

→





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B) REWRITE THE SENTENCES USING MIXED CONDITIONALS

IF I HAD GONE TO UNIVERSITY, I WOULD HAVE A DEGREE.
IF SHE HAD TAKEN DRIVING LESSONS, SHE WOULD KNOW
HOW TO DRIVE.

IF I SPOKE FRENCH, I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN THE JOB IN
PARIS.

IF HE HAD WOKEN UP ON TIME, HE WOULDN'T BE LATE FOR
WORK.

IF THEY WERE RICH, THEY COULD HAVE BOUGHT THAT
HOUSE.

ANSWER KEY





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PRACTICE

C) CORRECT THE MISTAKES

EACH SENTENCE BELOW HAS A MISTAKE. REWRITE THEM CORRECTLY.
IF I WOULD HAVE STUDIED MORE, I WOULDN'T BE SO STRESSED NOW.



IF SHE LEAVES EARLIER, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED HER FLIGHT.



IF THEY WEREN'T SO LAZY, THEY WOULDN'T FAILED THE EXAM.



IF HE HAD BE MORE CAREFUL, HE WOULDN'T BREAK HIS PHONE.



IF I HAD MORE MONEY, I WILL HAVE TRAVELED LAST SUMMER.







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C) CORRECT THE MISTAKES

IF I HAD STUDIED MORE, I WOULDN'T BE SO STRESSED NOW.
IF SHE HAD LEFT EARLIER, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE MISSED HER
FLIGHT.

IF THEY WEREN'T SO LAZY, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE FAILED
THE EXAM.

IF HE HAD BEEN MORE CAREFUL, HE WOULDN'T HAVE
BROKEN HIS PHONE.

IF I HAD MORE MONEY, I WOULD HAVE TRAVELED LAST
SUMMER.

ANSWER KEY

