

Third Conditionals

Third conditionals are used to talk about past situations that did not happen (imaginary situations in the past). We often use them to imagine a different outcome for events that are already over. It's like saying, "What if...?"

Structure:

if + past perfect, ...would + have + past participle

if + subject + had + past participle
(conditional clause)

+

Subject + would + have + past participle
(result clause)

Examples:

- If I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam.**
(In reality, I didn't study hard, so I didn't pass the exam.)
- If she had woken up earlier, she would have caught the bus.**
(In reality, she didn't wake up early, so she missed the bus.)
- If they had taken an umbrella, they wouldn't have gotten wet.**
(In reality, they didn't take an umbrella, so they got wet.)

Key Points:

1. Unreal Past:

Third conditionals are always about the past. They describe things that didn't happen.

2. Imaginary Results:

They are used to imagine what could have happened if the past had been different.

3. Regret or Relief:

Sometimes, we use them to express regret or relief about past events.

TO GIVE PROPS TO SOMEONE

- If I had not taken classes from you, I would not have topped my class. *(Giving props to you for something that happened in the past)*
- If Rahul hadn't called the hotel management and told them we were his friends, we wouldn't have gotten the rooms. *(Giving props to you)*

BOTH OR EITHER CLAUSE CAN BE IN THE PASSIVE VOICE

- If I had been taught well, I would have passed the test.
- If you had listened to me, you wouldn't have been fired from the job.
- If he had been taken to the hospital on time, his life could have been saved.



How to Form Third Conditionals:

1. Start with "If".
2. Use the past perfect tense (had + past participle) for the condition.
3. Use "would have" + past participle for the result.

More Examples:

- **If we had left earlier, we would have arrived on time.**
 - We didn't leave early, so we were late.
- **If he had known about the party, he would have come.**
 - He didn't know about the party, so he didn't come.
- **If I had seen you, I would have said hello.**
 - I didn't see you, so I didn't say hello.

NOTE: the order of the clauses can be reversed. The result clause can come in the beginning either.

Condition Clause Without 'If'

- **Regular:** If I had completed my work on time, I would not have been thrown out of the class.
Alternative: Had I completed my work on time, I would not have been thrown out of the class.
- **Regular:** If the groom had not asked for dowry, the wedding wouldn't have been called off.
Alternative: Had the groom not asked for dowry, the wedding wouldn't have been called off.
or
- **Alternative:** The wedding wouldn't have been called off had the groom not asked for dowry.