

# Third conditional

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There are four basic types of conditional sentences in the English language. Each type has two parts - the main clause and the if clause.

Zero conditional: *I take my umbrella if it rains.*

First conditional: *I'll call you if I work late.*

Second conditional: *If the bus didn't arrive on time, I would drive you to the airport.*

Third conditional: *She wouldn't have come if I hadn't invited her.*

## Third conditional

The third conditional sentences always refer to the past. We speculate about situations that happened or did not happen in the past.

*If I had won a million, I would have started a business of my own.* (But I didn't win anything.)

*If he had met her, he would have told her.* (Unfortunately, he didn't meet her.)

*If we hadn't practised, we wouldn't have won the match.* (But we practised and won.)

We use the past perfect in the if clause and perfect infinitive (have + past participle) in the main clause.

## Other forms

Apart from the basic form of the third conditional sentences, we can use other verb forms in English.

*We didn't save any money. If we had saved some money, we might have bought the house.*

*She wasn't there and I wasn't sitting next to her. But if she had been there, I would have been sitting next to her.*

*I was looking at the trees when I fell off the bike. If I hadn't been looking at the trees, I wouldn't have fallen off the bike.*

## Inverted conditionals

We can also make conditional sentences by changing the word order in the if clause.

*Had he booked the hotel room, he wouldn't have slept at the camp.* (If he had booked ... )

This form is less common, quite formal and is mostly used in writing.

## Note

*If* is the most frequent expression in the if clauses, but other expressions are also possible.  
*even if, provided (that), on condition (that), in case*

*I would have left even if he had not wanted to.*

*You could have had your birthday party provided that you had not been so naughty.*

*We would have sold you the bike on condition you had paid in cash.*

*You should have taken a dictionary with you in case you had forgotten some words.*

## Third conditional exercises:

[www.e-grammar.org/conditional-3-exercises-pdf/](http://www.e-grammar.org/conditional-3-exercises-pdf/)

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