



The Third Conditional — B1 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- If I had known about the strike, I ____ home much earlier.
A) would have gone B) would go C) went D) had gone
- If the taxi had arrived on time, we ____ the flight.
A) would catch B) caught C) would have caught D) had caught
- If she ____ medicine, she would be a hospital consultant today.
A) had studied B) studied C) would study D) has studied
- If he hadn't dropped his phone in the sink, it ____.
A) wouldn't have broken B) wouldn't break C) didn't break D) hadn't broken
- If I ____ more time that week, I would have finished the report.
A) had B) would have C) have had D) had had
- We ____ won the match if our goalkeeper had been fit.
A) can have B) could C) could have D) could have
- Which sentence is a correctly formed third conditional?
A) If I would have known, I would have called. B) If I knew, I would have called.
C) If I had known, I would call. D) If I had known, I would have called.
- ____ I realised how late it was, I would have taken a taxi.
A) Have B) Did C) Had D) Should
- If they had invited me to the wedding, I ____ definitely gone.
A) will have B) would C) had D) would have
- If you had told me the truth then, everything ____ different now.
A) would have been B) will be C) would be D) had been

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

- If I had known you were ill, I _____ have visited you.
- If we had left at six, we _____ never have hit the traffic.
- She would have accepted the job if the salary _____ been higher.

4. If the weather _____ been so bad, the ceremony would have been outdoors.
5. _____ I known about the discount, I would have bought two.
6. He _____ have been promoted if he had spoken better German.
7. If I _____ enough money at the time, I would have bought that painting.
8. If you had revised properly, you _____ be retaking the exam now.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. I / known, / would / told / If / you. / I / have / had

Explain why you kept quiet about something.

-
2. arrived / train / had / if / run. / would / earlier / have / the / We

Blame a cancelled service for being late.

-
3. she / have / Had / helped. / would / me, / I / asked

Use the formal inversion instead of if.

-
4. revised, / he / passed. / he / have / would / If / had

Explain a failed exam in the third conditional.

-
5. won / They / had / their / have / played. / might / captain / if

Speculate about a match with an uncertain result.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **A) would have gone** — The result of an unreal past takes would have plus the past participle.
2. **C) would have caught** — Both halves must be past: past perfect after if, would have plus participle in the result.
3. **A) had studied** — A past cause with a present result is the mixed conditional: past perfect after if, but plain would in the result.
4. **A) wouldn't have broken** — The negative result of an unreal past is wouldn't have plus the past participle.
5. **D) had had** — The past perfect of have is had had. It looks like a slip and is in fact correct.
6. **D) could have** — Could have replaces would have when the speaker means the result was possible rather than certain.
7. **D) If I had known, I would have called.** — Would have never belongs inside the if clause — that is the single most common error in this structure.
8. **C) Had** — Formal English can drop if and invert: Had I realised means exactly the same as If I had realised.
9. **D) would have** — Would have plus the participle, with the adverb sitting between the two parts.
10. **C) would be** — Now anchors the result in the present, so this is a mixed conditional and the result drops have.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **would** — The result clause of a third conditional is would plus have plus a past participle.
2. **would** — Would have carries the unreal past result; the adverb sits between the two words.
3. **had** — The if clause takes the past perfect, so had plus the past participle.
4. **hadn't** — The negative past perfect states the opposite of what really happened.
5. **Had** — Formal English inverts had and the subject and drops if entirely.
6. **might** — Might have softens the claim: the promotion was possible, not guaranteed.
7. **had** — The past perfect of have in the if clause of an unreal past condition.
8. **wouldn't** — A mixed conditional: past cause, present result, so no have in the result clause.

C. Sentence building

1. **If I had known, I would have told you.**
2. **We would have arrived earlier if the train had run.**
3. **Had she asked me, I would have helped.**
4. **If he had revised, he would have passed.**
5. **They might have won if their captain had played.**