

# 32 Conditional tenses

You can use the third conditional to describe an unreal past, or events that did not happen. This is useful for talking about regrets you have about the past.

 **New language** The third conditional

 **Vocabulary** Environmental threats

 **New skill** Talking about an unreal past

## 32.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

### SECOND CONDITIONAL

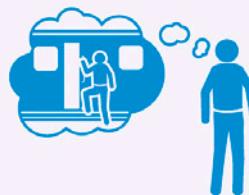
The second conditional is used to describe unreal situations in the present.



**If I lived in New York,  
I would go running in Central Park.**

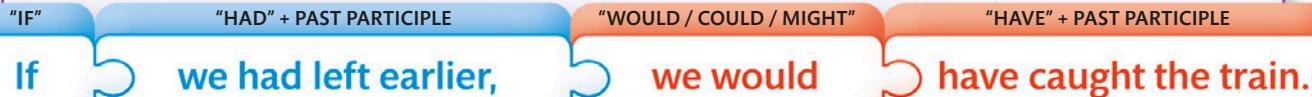
### THIRD CONDITIONAL

Use the third conditional to describe unreal situations in the past.



**If we had left earlier,  
we would have caught the train.**

## 32.2 HOW TO FORM THE THIRD CONDITIONAL



The "if" clause is the unreal past condition.

Using different modals varies the certainty of the imagined result.

The conditional clause is the unreal result.

## 32.3 ANOTHER WAY TO SAY THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

The past perfect continuous can also follow "if" in the third conditional.

**If you'd been wearing a coat, you would have stayed warm.**

**We would've caught the train if we'd left on time.**

Often "have" is contracted when spoken.

Sentences in the third conditional can be reordered without a comma so the "if" clause is second.



## 32.4 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE CORRECT TENSES TO MAKE SENTENCES IN THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

If he had asked (ask) me to marry him, I would have said (would / say) yes.

- 1 If I choose (choose) the trip, we would go (would / go) to Spain.
- 2 If we arrive (arrive) earlier, we would not miss (would/ not miss) the show.
- 3 I could help (could / help) them if they call (call) me earlier.
- 4 If we stop (stop) eating earlier, we might not feel (might / not feel) so sick.
- 5 She would pass (would / pass) her exam if she work (work) a bit harder.
- 6 If you shut (shut) the door, we might not be (might / not be) so cold.



## 32.5 KEY LANGUAGE FORMAL INVERSION

You can make the third conditional more formal by inverting the subject and "had," and dropping "if."

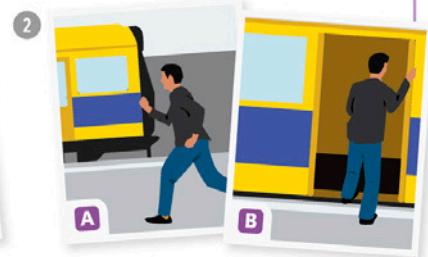
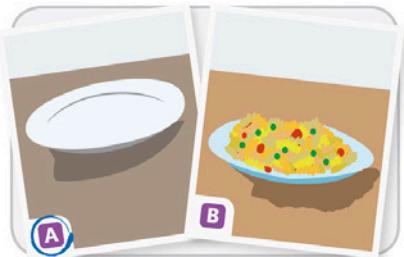
If you had attended the meeting, you would have met the manager.

Had you attended the meeting, you would have met the manager.

This is used more in formal and academic written English.



## 32.6 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK THE THINGS THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED



## 32.7 PRONUNCIATION CONTRACTED FORMS

In spoken English, you will often hear the contracted forms of "would have," "could have," and "might have." The vowel sound before the final "v" is a lazy "uh" sound.

**would've**

**could've**

**might've**



## 32.8 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD USING THE CONTRACTED FORMS

They would have taken my car if I had not paid the bill.

*They would've taken my car if I hadn't paid the bill.*



- 1 I might have worked harder if I had been paid more.



- 2 If more people had voted for him, he would have won.



- 3 If you had left earlier, we would have arrived on time.



- 4 She might have finished on time if she had started sooner.





## 32.10 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

There are only a few rhinos left in Java.

True  False

1 The last Javan rhino in Vietnam died of old age.

True  False

2 It is important to protect the rhinos' habitat.

True  False

3 Rhinos naturally live in tropical forests.

True  False

4 It is quite cheap to buy rhino horn.

True  False

5 Rhino horn is mostly used in cooking.

True  False

6 The leaflet says there is nothing that readers can do.

True  False

CONSERVATION WEEKLY

# Save the Javan rhino

In 2010, the last surviving Javan rhino in Vietnam was killed for its horn. How can we make sure that the same does not happen to the few remaining rhinos on Java? What can we do differently?

**F**irstly, if the rhinos' habitat had been better protected, the rhinos would have had a much greater chance of survival.

Not only does their natural tropical rainforest habitat provide a place for the rhinos to live and find food but it also acts as a place to hide from hunters and poachers.

We also need to stop the market in rhino horns. Prices are so high that



Go to our website for more information.



## 32.11 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK THE CORRECT SUMMARY

1 In the 1930s more than three-quarters of Java was covered in forest. The Javan tiger was classified as endangered in 1976 and now it is nearly extinct. The population of its main food source, the Rusa deer, has also declined.

2 In the 1930s nearly a quarter of Java was covered in forest. The Javan tiger was last seen in the wild in 1976 and is now classified as extinct. The population of its main food source, the Rusa deer, has also declined.

3 In the 1930s more than half of Java was covered in forest. The Javan tiger was last seen in the wild in 1952 and is now classified as extinct. The population of its main food source, the Rusa deer, has increased significantly.

## 32.12 KEY LANGUAGE “I WISH”

### PRESENT REGRETS

You can express regrets about the present in a similar way to the second conditional by using “I wish.”



**The snow is amazing!**  
**I wish I knew** how to ski.

“Wish” + past  
has present meaning.

### PAST REGRETS

You can also use “I wish” to express regrets about the past in a similar way to the third conditional.



**My camera has no power.**  
**I wish I'd charged** the battery.

“Wish” + “had” + past participle  
has past meaning.



## 32.13 ANOTHER WAY TO SAY “I WISH”

### PRESENT REGRETS

You can express stronger regrets about the present by using “if only” and the past tense.

**These mountains are incredible!**  
**If only I knew** how to ski.

### PAST REGRETS

You can express stronger regrets about the past by using “if only” with “had” and the past participle.

**I really wanted to take pictures.**  
**If only I'd charged** the battery.



## 32.14 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

There wasn't much wildlife. I wish I **had seen** / **saw** more animals!



- 1 I wish we **weren't** / **hadn't been** outdoors right now.
- 2 I think about the trip a lot. I wish I **took** / **had taken** more photos.
- 3 I feel sick. If only I **had eaten** / **ate** fewer of those berries.
- 4 The bus has broken down! If only the driver **had known** / **knew** how to fix it.
- 5 I'm so exhausted! If only I **sleep** / **'d slept** a little more.





## 32.15 FILL IN THE GAPS TO MAKE "I WISH" AND "IF ONLY" SENTENCES



I was so hot in the sun today. I wish I had remembered my hat! (remember / hat).

1



I missed the bus again. I wish   (set / alarm).

2



I caught a huge fish yesterday. If only   (take / photo).

3



I can't afford those boots. If only   (not spend / money).

4



I was so cold this winter. I wish   (buy / coat).



## 32.16 READ THE ARTICLE AND COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

I wish I'd gone sailing with him.

- 1 He wished he'd   the fishermen from killing the seal.
- 2 He thought, if only he'd   something to protect the seals.
- 3 If I hadn't helped, I know I would've   guilty forever.
- 4 If he'd seen me become a campaigner, he'd have   very proud.

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### ENVIRONMENT UPDATE

## WHY ARE YOU A CAMPAIGNER?

My grandfather was a sailor and explored the world by sea. He'd tell me stories of his adventures. He never asked me to go sailing with him, though I would have loved to. Once, in the 1930s, he saw fishermen killing a Caribbean monk seal. He wanted to stop the fishermen, and always felt bad that he did not do anything. After about 20 years, he read that the very last Caribbean monk seal had been killed. He always regretted not doing anything to protect these seals. Many years later when I was in Greece, I saw a leaflet about the endangered Mediterranean monk seal. I knew I had to help or else I'd feel guilty forever. Unfortunately my grandfather never knew I became a campaigner. He'd be very proud.

## 32 ✓ CHECKLIST



The third conditional

Aa Environmental threats



Talking about an unreal past