

Grammar L3GLO5

Unreal Conditionals

Learning Outcome 5: Conditionals: Second and Third

NOTICING A Read the sentences. Answer the questions below.

1. If he had got a bad grade on this test, he would have been really upset.
2. If we had a long weekend this weekend, I would go sailing.
3. They wouldn't have got sunburnt if they had used sunscreen.
4. If you hadn't cooked the sauce for so long, it would have tasted good.
5. You wouldn't earn a lot of money if you took that job.
6. I wouldn't worry about anything if I was rich and famous.

Write the correct numbers. Which sentences are about things that ...

- a. aren't real or true in the present, but you can imagine them? _____, _____, _____
- b. didn't happen in the past? _____, _____, _____

Real and Unreal Conditionals

Conditional sentences are sentences with *if* in them. There are two types of unreal conditionals.

The present unreal conditional (*if* + simple past, *would/wouldn't* + verb) describes a situation that is not real now, but you can imagine it and its result.

The past unreal conditional (*if* + past perfect, *would/wouldn't have* + past participle) describes an unreal situation that wasn't true or didn't happen in the past.

In both types of conditional sentences, the *if* part can come before or after the result.

B Complete the conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. If I had lots of money, I _____ (give) a lot of it to people who need it more than me.
2. My brother would have helped me with my homework if he _____ (not be) ill.
3. If our manager _____ (ask) me to give the presentation, I would do it.
4. If you _____ (read) the book, you would have known what happens in the end.
5. If they had invited you to the event, _____ (you / go) to it?
6. If she had been my friend, she _____ (not lie) to me.

C Note down the things below. Then write one conditional sentence about each thing.

1. three things that you wish would happen this week and what you would do if they happened.
2. three things that you didn't do in the past and what the effects of doing those things would have been.

D Work in pairs. Read your sentences from exercise C to your partner. Help your partner correct any errors in his/her sentences.