

Mixed Conditionals

Those of you who have been following the Conditional Tutorial should now be familiar with present, past and future conditional verb forms. Sometimes Unreal Conditional sentences are mixed. This means that the time in the if-clause is not the same as the time in the result. Study the examples below to learn how to mix conditional verb forms like a native speaker.

Verbs in green are in the Present Unreal Conditional.

Verbs in red are in the Past Unreal Conditional.

Verbs in purple are in the Future Unreal Conditional.

Mixed Conditional Patterns

PAST

PRESENT

Examples:

- If I **had won** the lottery, I **would be** rich.
BUT I DIDN'T WIN THE LOTTERY IN THE PAST AND I AM NOT RICH NOW.
- If I **had taken** French in high school, I **would have** more job opportunities.
BUT I DIDN'T TAKE FRENCH IN HIGH SCHOOL AND I DON'T HAVE MANY JOB OPPORTUNITIES.
- If she **had been born** in the United States, she **wouldn't need** a visa to work here.
BUT SHE WASN'T BORN IN THE UNITED STATES AND SHE DOES NEED A VISA NOW TO WORK HERE.

PAST

FUTURE

Examples:

- If she **had signed** up for the ski trip last week, she **would be joining** us tomorrow.
BUT SHE DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THE SKI TRIP LAST WEEK AND SHE ISN'T GOING TO JOIN US TOMORROW.
- If Mark **had gotten** the job instead of Joe, he **would be moving** to Shanghai.
BUT MARK DIDN'T GET THE JOB AND MARK IS NOT GOING TO MOVE TO SHANGHAI.
- If Darren **hadn't wasted** his Christmas bonus gambling in Las Vegas, he **would go** to Mexico with us next month.
BUT DARREN WASTED HIS CHRISTMAS BONUS GAMBLING IN LAS VEGAS AND HE WON'T GO TO MEXICO WITH US NEXT MONTH.

PRESENT

PAST

Examples:

- If I **were** rich, I **would have bought** that Ferrari we saw yesterday.
BUT I AM NOT CURRENTLY RICH AND THAT IS WHY I DIDN'T BUY THE FERRARI YESTERDAY.
- If Sam **spoke** Russian, he **would have translated** the letter for you.
BUT SAM DOESN'T SPEAK RUSSIAN AND THAT IS WHY HE DIDN'T TRANSLATE THE LETTER.
- If I **didn't have** to work so much, I **would have gone** to the party last night.
BUT I HAVE TO WORK A LOT AND THAT IS WHY I DIDN'T GO TO THE PARTY LAST NIGHT.

PRESENT**FUTURE**

Examples:

- If I **didn't have** so much vacation time, I **wouldn't go** with you on the cruise to Alaska next week.
BUT I DO HAVE A LOT OF VACATION TIME AND I WILL GO ON THE TRIP NEXT WEEK.
- If Cindy **were** more creative, the company **would send** her to New York to work on the new advertising campaign.
BUT CINDY IS NOT CREATIVE AND THE COMPANY WON'T SEND HER TO NEW YORK TO WORK ON THE NEW CAMPAIGN.
- If Dan **weren't** so nice, he **wouldn't be tutoring** you in math tonight.
BUT DAN IS NICE AND HE IS GOING TO TUTOR YOU TONIGHT.

FUTURE**PAST**

Examples:

- If I **weren't going** on my business trip next week, I **would have accepted** that new assignment at work.
BUT I AM GOING TO GO ON A BUSINESS TRIP NEXT WEEK, AND THAT IS WHY I DIDN'T ACCEPT THAT NEW ASSIGNMENT AT WORK.
- If my parents **weren't coming** this weekend, I **would have planned** a nice trip just for the two of us to Napa Valley.
BUT MY PARENTS ARE GOING TO COME THIS WEEKEND, AND THAT IS WHY I DIDN'T PLAN A TRIP FOR THE TWO OF US TO NAPA VALLEY.
- If Donna **weren't making** us a big dinner tonight, I **would have suggested** that we go to that nice Italian restaurant.
BUT SHE IS GOING TO MAKE US A BIG DINNER TONIGHT, AND THAT IS WHY I DIDN'T SUGGEST THAT WE GO TO THAT NICE ITALIAN RESTAURANT.

FUTURE**PRESENT**

Examples:

- If I **were going** to that concert tonight, I **would be** very excited.
BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GO TO THAT CONCERT TONIGHT AND THAT IS WHY I AM NOT EXCITED.
- If Sandy **were giving** a speech tomorrow, she **would be** very nervous.
BUT SANDY IS NOT GOING TO GIVE A SPEECH TOMORROW AND THAT IS WHY SHE IS NOT NERVOUS.
- If Seb **didn't come** with us to the desert, everyone **would be** very disappointed.
BUT SEB WILL COME WITH US TO THE DESERT AND THAT IS WHY EVERYONE IS SO HAPPY.

1. She will take care of the children for us next weekend because her business trip was canceled.

But, she (take, not) **would not be taking** care of the children for us next weekend if her business trip (be, not) **had not been** canceled.

2. Tom is not going to come to dinner tomorrow because you insulted him yesterday.

But, he (come) if you (insult, not) him.

3. Marie is unhappy because she gave up her career when she got married.

But, Marie (be) happy if she (give, not) up her career when she got married.

4. Dr. Mercer decided not to accept the research grant at Harvard because he is going to take six months off to spend more time with his family.

But, Dr. Mercer (accept) the research grant at Harvard if he (take, not) six months off to spend more time with his family.

5. Professor Schmitz talked so much about the Maasai tribe because she is an expert on African tribal groups.

But, Professor Schmitz (talk, not) so much about the Maasai tribe if she (be, not) an expert on African tribal groups.

6. I am unemployed because I had a disagreement with my boss and I was fired.

But, I (be, not) unemployed if I (have, not) a disagreement with my boss and I (be, not) fired.

7. Nicole speaks Chinese fluently because she lived in China for ten years.

But, Nicole (speak, not) Chinese fluently if she (live, not) in China for ten years.

8. I will not help you study for your test because you have spent the last two weeks partying and wasting time.

But, I (help) you study for your test if you (spend, not) the last two weeks partying and wasting time.

9. Eleanor and Ben are not going skiing with us this year because Eleanor just had a baby.

But, Eleanor and Ben (go) skiing with us this year if Eleanor (have, not, just) a baby.

10. I am completely exhausted, so I will not go with you to the movies tonight.

But, if I (be, not) completely exhausted, I (go) with you to the movies tonight.

11. She is not worried about the conference tomorrow because she is not giving a speech.

But, she (be) worried about the conference tomorrow if she (give) a speech.

12. Frank is not going to the graduation ceremony because he broke his leg snowboarding last week.

But, Frank (go) to the graduation ceremony if he (break, not) his leg snowboarding last week.

13. They are not releasing the prisoner next month because there was so much public opposition to his release.

But, they (release) the prisoner next month if there (be) so much opposition to his release.

14. The hotels filled up months in advance because the festival is going to include jazz artists from around the globe.

But, the hotels (fill, not) up months in advance if the festival (include, not) jazz artists from around the globe.

15. We are not worried about the recent string of robberies in the neighborhood because the police have started regularly patrolling the area.

But, we (be) worried about the recent string of robberies in the neighborhood if the police (start, not) regularly patrolling the area.

Translate into English:

Kdybych začal studovat o rok dříve, mohl bych příští rok získat práci v zahraničí.

Všechny bych vás včera odvezl domů, kdybych vlastnil větší auto.

Kdyby generální ředitel zítra neodjížděl do Kanady, mohli jsme včera jít dřív domů.

Mohli bychom koupit našeho konkurenta, kdybychom loni neutrpěli ztrátu.

Dnes bych měl milióny, kdybych byl správně investoval ty vyhrané peníze!