

MIXED CONDITIONALS

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Connect unreal conditions and results across different times.

1. READ: A useful course

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Omar: I wish I'd taken that spreadsheet course with you.

Vera: You can still sign up for the next one.

Omar: Yes, but **if I'd taken** it last month, **I'd be** faster at this report now.

Vera: Probably. What's stopping you this time?

Omar: Money. **If the course weren't** so expensive, **I'd have booked** it yesterday.

Vera: Ask your manager. The company paid for mine.

2. GRAMMAR: A condition and result in different times

Use mixed conditionals when an unreal past condition affects now, or a present state explains a past result.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Past -> now	if + past perfect; would + verb	If I'd studied, I'd know now.
State -> past	if + past simple; would have	If I were richer, I'd have booked.
Time meaning	make the times clear	last month / now / yesterday

Past -> now: I didn't learn, so I don't know now.

State -> past: I'm not confident, so I didn't apply yesterday.

Use a state that is still relevant for the second pattern; don't mix forms without a time reason.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. If I'd studied, I would know / have known now.
2. If I were richer, I'd buy / have bought it yesterday.
3. If she'd slept well, she wouldn't be / been tired now.
4. If I weren't shy, I'd have spoke / spoken yesterday.
5. If he had / would have trained, he'd be fitter now.
6. If she knew French, she'd have understood / understand yesterday's call.
7. If I hadn't lost it, I would have / had it now.
8. If he were more careful, he wouldn't have made / make that error yesterday.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Learning a useful skill

Choose the mixed conditional form that matches the stated past or present result.

1. If I _____ (take) that course last month, I'd work faster now.
2. If I'd practised more, I _____ (be) more confident today.
3. If the course _____ (not / be) so expensive, I'd have booked it yesterday.
4. If I had more free time, I _____ (attend) last week's class.
5. If Jo _____ (not / help) yesterday, I'd still be stuck now.
6. If I knew the software better, I _____ (not / make) that mistake this morning.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Connect the past cause to now.

Example: I didn't sleep. I'm tired now. **If I'd slept, I wouldn't be tired now.**

1. I lost the key. I can't get in now.
2. I didn't study. I don't know it now.

3-4: Connect the present state to a past result. Example: I'm shy. I didn't ask. **If I weren't shy, I'd have asked.**

3. I'm shy. I didn't speak yesterday.
4. I'm busy. I didn't go yesterday.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write a past-to-present conditional and a present-state-to-past conditional. Add one more example.

Example: **If I'd learned to drive, I'd have a car now. If I were braver, I'd have applied.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Discuss an earlier choice that affects your life now.

Then discuss a continuing quality or circumstance that affected a past decision.

Explain the two time references in each conditional.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A useful course

Sample target language from the conversation:

Omar: Yes, but **if I'd taken** it last month, **I'd be** faster at this report now.

Omar: Money. **If the course weren't** so expensive, **I'd have booked** it yesterday.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. would know | 2. have bought |
| 3. be | 4. spoken |
| 5. had | 6. have understood |
| 7. have | 8. have made |

B. COMPLETE: Learning a useful skill

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. had taken | 2. would be / 'd be |
| 3. weren't / wasn't / were not / was not | 4. would have attended |
| 5. hadn't helped / had not helped | 6. wouldn't have made / would not have made |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. If I hadn't lost the key, I could get in now.
2. If I'd studied, I'd know it now.
3. If I weren't shy, I'd have spoken yesterday.
4. If I weren't busy, I'd have gone yesterday.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: If I'd saved more, I'd have more money now. If I weren't shy, I'd have called yesterday. If I'd booked earlier, I'd be relaxed now.

Teacher note: Accept could in C1. Was is common informally with I/he/she; model were. Avoid claiming all hypothetical results are certain facts.