CONDITIONALS

PRESENT UNREAL CONDITIONAL (TYPE 2)

Text I

Pick of the month

My own favourite series this month?

The People Watchers. Presented by Professor Richard Wiseman and his rather attractive psychologist friends, the show asks some very interesting questions. If no one **saw** you, **would you take** something without paying for it? How close to someone **would you stand if you didn't know** them? It's all good stuff but maybe the programme **could be** even better if we heard from experts. Unfortunately, for most of the series, we only hear Professor Wiseman's voice. And it **would also be** nice if we **had** more statistics. Some of the experiments using hidden cameras show only one or two people in action – not enough to make big conclusions about human behaviour. But overall, this is good TV: light, easy on the eye and fun.

Exercise 1. Read Text I above and answer the following questions:

1. What's the article about?

_____

_____

2. What are the psychologists in this programme trying to do?

_____

_____

3. How?

_____

_____

4. What's the writer's opinion of the programme?

_____

_____

5. Now, please answer the following underlined questions and give grounds for your answers:

a. <u>If no one saw you, would you take something without paying for it?</u>

_____

_____

b. <u>How close to someone would you stand if you didn't know them</u>?

_____

_____

Remember this!

1 We use the **second conditional** to describe a **situation in the present which is contrary-to-fact**.

2 In the ***if*** clause, we use the **past simple**.

If I **had** time, … (The real fact is that I don't have time.)

3. In the ***result clause***, we use **would** or **'d + base verb**.

I **would go** on holidays.

4. If we are not sure of the result, we can also use **could / might + verb**.
Example:
If I had more time, I **could have** a nice, long holiday.
If I had more time, I **might** go on holidays.

5. We can use "If **I were** you, **I'd** …"to give **advice**.
Example:
If I were you, I **would make** time for myself to go on holidays!
If that were me,
In your shoes,
In your position,

6. Some common expressions in the **would clause**: **would be able, would need to, would have to**.

By using the second conditional, we can make **hypothesis** or talk about **imaginary situations**.
Example:
Real situation: She doesn't have any savings, so she can't afford medicine when her children get sick.

Conditional

If clause (unreal situation/ contrary-to-fact)	**Result clause**
If+ subject + Verb (past form),	subject+ **would/could/might + base form**
If she had some savings,	she **could afford** medicine when her children get sick.

Text II

If you could choose any three things, what three things would make your life better? We asked this question to the public:

Henrik, 25, from Sweden, said, "If I really could have a chance to change three things, they would be the environment, poverty and peace. My priority? I would introduce new laws to save the planet."

Lulu, 30, from Edinburgh, had different ideas. She said, "My life couldn't be better, but if I had to change something, I would change the colour of my curtains – they're horrible grey!"

Olly, 16, from London, said: "Ok, if I were able to change three things, first thing: I would be Prime Minister. Second thing: I would make rich people pay more tax. Third thing: I wouldn't let people smoke cigarettes because they give you cancer."

Brigitte, 19, from Germany, immediately said: "More money! If I were richer, I would not have to work in this stupid shop! I could spend my days painting, which is my real dream."

Exercise 2. Let's check if you understand these conditional structures and what we use them for. First, underline all the conditionals sentences in the text above, discuss them with your teacher and classmates and then play the roles of the people mentioned.

Exercise 3. Now, your answers!

What would you do if you had the chance to make three changes in your life?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Text III

The problem:

Last week my colleague and best friend Mariela saw a job advertisement in the paper. She told me it's her "dream job" and she intends to apply for it. Unfortunately, it's also my dream job and I really want to apply for it. I have more experience than Mariela and would probably have a better chance of getting the job. But if I got it, it would ruin our friendship. Should I apply? And if I do, should I tell Mariela?

Kathy.

Now, choose the best summary:

a) Kathy doesn't want her friend to apply for a job because it is Kathy's "dream job".

b) Kathy's friend is angry because they both want to apply for the same job.

c) Kathy wants the same job as her friend, but she is worried their friendship will end if she gets it.

Some advice:

a) Ok, so you work together and are best friends, too. This means that Mariela probably knows how you feel about your job and also knows your plans for your career. In all probability, she realises that this job is your dream job, too.

b) **If she knows this**, then that's the end of your problem. All you have to do is be honest with her and tell her that you want to apply. Then see what she says. If she is really angry, **perhaps** she isn't such a good friend. **If I were you, I would** also support her application as much as you can. Maybe offer to read through her CV and her application letter. **If she gets an interview**, give her a "good luck" card and buy her a new pair of earrings to wear on the day. It's possible that **neither of yo**u will get the job, but tell her you'll be happy **if either of you gets it**.

c) I know that close friendships can be ruined because one person becomes more successful than another. It happens all the time, and **not only** in Hollywood or on Wall Street. **However**, this is no reason for you not to **chase your dreams**. **Finally**, here are a few questions for you.

d) How would you feel if you didn't apply, she did and got the job, and you spend the rest of your career in the same job, bored and unhappy? Or how would you feel if, because of her getting this new job (which you didn't apply for), she lost daily contact with you, and your friendship broke up anyway? Wouldn't that be much worse than both of you applying and supporting each other?

Exercise 4. Explain the problem Kathy has using your own words. Give your own advice.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Exercise 5. Read this other problem and give your advice. Work in pairs. **Build up dialogs/ exchanges**. Think of all different options or choices.

In one month, an old friend of mine is getting married. He told me the date a year ago. Unfortunately, I forgot this date and I have now booked a holiday with my new girlfriend on exactly the same day. I can't change the dates of the holiday because my girlfriend can only have this one week off. Her boss says she can't change the date. I really don't know what to do. Help!

Exercise 6. Rewrite these sentences using the second conditional:

1 Joe goes to bed at 2 a.m. He feels tired all the time.

If Joe _____

2. She doesn't play for the team – she isn't fast enough.

If she _____

3. We can't drive to your house because we don't have a car.

We_____

4. They won't pass the exam because they don't study.

They_____

5. I have a supportive family. My life is so easy.

My life _____

6. I'd love to buy that house, but I don't have the money.

If I _____

7. I'm so lazy. I don't do my chores at home.

I _____

8. You don't water your pants regularly. They look so dry!

If you _____

9. Tom and Dave never help in the house. Their mother doesn't ask them.

They_____

10. I work on Saturdays. I can't come to the barbecue.

If I _____

WISH + PRESENT UNREAL CONDITIONAL (OR TYPE 2)

Exercise 7. What is something you wish you could do?

Look at the example: **I wish I had more time. If I had more time, I would take up piano lessons.**

Now give your own examples:

_____

_____

_____

PAST UNREAL CONDITIONAL (OR TYPE III)

Text IV

KID CARE Report

Client: Billy Simmons

Age: 14

Counsellor: Carmen Delanie

Billy ran away from home because he was being bullied at school. He has now been missing for six months. He had tried to talk to his mother and his teachers. **If they had listened to him, they would have understood** how he was feeling. Billy's father walked out on the family. **If his father had stayed, Billy might have felt** happier and less insecure.
If he had talked to us, we could have helped him. He **should have come** to us a long time ago.
We are doing all we can to locate Billy. We suspect that he is somewhere in London.

Exercise 8. Look at the box below. Make a sentence using ***If*** and the prompts.

1) People didn't understand what Billy was going through.

understood …. wouldn't … run away

_____

2) He didn't go to Kidcare.

gone … could … talked … problems

_____

3) His father left.

left … Billy might …felt more secure.

_____

4) The bullies threatened him.

threatened … he wouldn't … run away

_____

Remember this!

1 We use the **third conditional** to describe **situations in the past which are contrary-to-fact**.

2 In the ***if*** clause, we use the **past perfect**.

3. In the ***result clause***, we use **would have + past participle**.

4. If we are not sure of the result, we can also use **could have / might have + past participle**.

5. If we want to, we can use should have + past participle.

By using the third conditional, we can state past actions that we now regret.

Example:
Real situation: I didn't hear my alarm clock, so I woke up late.

Conditional

If clause (unreal situation)	**Result clause**
If I **had heard** my alarm clock,	I **wouldn't have woken up** late.

Exercise 9. Read the following story. Then combine the pairs of sentences using past unreal conditional.

Last winter, Hans had a lucky escape…

1. One morning, Hans quarrelled with his friends. They went off for the day without him.

   _____

2. Hans was feeling bored. He decided to go up the mountain, snowboarding.

   _____

3. He didn't listen to the weather warning. He didn't know there was danger of an avalanche in that area.

   _____

4. He ignored the rumbling noise above him. He continued snowboarding.

   _____

5. He didn't take shelter. He was caught in the avalanche.

   _____

6. Back at the chalet, his dog sense something was wrong. He set off to search for Hans.

   _____

7. The dog found Han's body buried in the snow and dug a hole. Hans had enough air to breathe.

   _____

8. The dog ran off and returned with help. Hans was rescued.

   _____

9. The dog acted intelligently. Hans did not die.

   _____

WISH + PAST UNREAL CONDITIONAL (OR TYPE III)

Exercise 10. Regrets! (Meaning of regret: a feeling of sadness about something sad or wrong or about a mistake that you have made, and a wish that it could have been different and better. Cambridge Dictionary).

I overslept this morning because I went to bed really late last night. I had gone to a party with my friends and after the party, which I must say was a bit boring, we hung out for an hour or so. That meant getting back home at about 4 a.m.

Because I overslept this morning, I missed the train. I got to work one hour late. And that, of course, made by boss furious. He yelled at me and made me stay in the office three hours doing overtime.

I wish I hadn't gone to the party with my friends last night. If I hadn't (gone to the party), I would not have gone to bed late.

Let's continue together.

I wish

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Exercise11. Answer the following questions and support your answers.

Do you wish you

1. had learned to play a musical instrument?

Why? Do you love music? Have you always wanted to be … / to play ...?

_____

_____

_____

2. had stayed in touch with your old friends?

_____

_____

_____

3. hadn't moved when you were young?

_____

_____

_____

Check this: Hope vs. wish in past time.

Use **hope** to talk about something that possibly happened.

Past time	**Past tense form**
I **might have passed** the exam.	I **hope** I passed the test.
Tom **might have quit** his job.	I **hope** Tom hasn't t quit his job.

Wish

Use wish to talk about something that is contrary-to-fact.

I wish I had passed the exam. (**I didn't**)

I wish Tom hadn't quit his job. (**He did.**)

Exercise 12. Fill in the blanks using wish or hope.

1. Let's _____ it doesn't rain.

2. Mary _____ she could play the piano.

3. I _____ my father had got the job. My mother still _____ he gets one soon!

4. Bill _____ he had passed his math exam. Not this time! However, he _____ he will soon.

MIXED CONDITIONALS

Text V

Read the text. Are there any similar charities or events in your country?

In 2015, the charity Comic Relief celebrated its 30th. anniversary. Based in the UK, it was **set up** by a group of comedians in response to the 1985 Ethiopian famine. They started "Red Nose Day", a day when people across the UK get together for **fundraising** activities. People buy red noses and all of the money from this goes towards Comic Relief. The money **raised** by Comic Relief helps people living in difficult conditions on the UK and around the world, and it's estimated that over 50 million people **would be worse off** today **if the charity hadn't been set up**. **If it weren't for** Comic Relief, **literacy rates** in Uganda **would probably not have reached** 73%. And the number of children attending primary school in Africa **might have not increased** by 60 million **if the charity didn't exist**. In 2015, the British public donated a

staggering €78.8 million, bringing the total raised by Comic Relief in its thirty-year history to over €1 billion. But **it couldn't have achieved** all this **if it didn't have** the support of the comedians who take part and inspire the public to give so generously.

Exercise 13. Let's check the meaning of the following words:

set up: _____

fundraising: _____

raise:

_____

be worse off: _____

literacy (literacy rates): _____

increase: _____

achieve: _____

Exercise 14. Now, answer the following questions.

1. What is Comic Relief?

   _____

2. Who set it up?

   _____

3. What's its purpose?

   _____

4. What kind of activities does it carry out?

   _____

5. Mention some of the things which would not be the same if Comic Relief didn't help people in need?

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

Remember this!

Mixed conditionals are a mixture of second and third conditionals. They occur when the **if clause** and main (result) clause refer to different times (past and present).

(**past**) If he **had read** the map, (**present**) he **wouldn't be** lost (now).

(**present**) If he could drive, (past) he **would have** got the job.

Exercise 15. What does each statement imply? Choose a or b.

1) If you hadn't gone to college, you wouldn't have such a good job.

   a. You have a good job now **even though** you didn't go to college.

   b. You went to college, so you have a good job.

2) He would be a better doctor if he had learned to be more sensitive toward patients.

   a. He needs to be more sensitive toward patients in order to be a good doctor.

   b. He is a good doctor because he is so sensitive toward patients.

3) If they hadn't gone to work in the same company after finishing high school, they wouldn't have met.

   a. They met at work.

   b. They met in high school.

4) If she liked studying, she would have gone to college.

   a. She went to college.

   b. She didn't go to college.

Exercise 16. Match the two halves of the mixed conditional sentences.

1. If he'd gone to bed earlier,

2. If it wasn't so cold,

3. If I were him,

4. If you hadn't already eaten it all,

5. If you hadn't been so rude,

6. If they'd remembered the address,

___ **a** we could have some cake now.

___ **b** she wouldn't be angry.

___ **c** he wouldn't be so tired.

___ **d** they'd be here by now.

___ **e** we might have gone for fun.

___ f I wouldn't have made that decision.

Exercise 17. Speaking. Work in pairs. Take turns to ask and answer questions with ***What if ...?*** about these imaginary situations. Use mixed conditionals in your answers.

What if

1. you were the leader of your country?
2. the internet hadn't been invented?
3. time travel were possible?
4. you had to live abroad for a year?
5. you were asked to give a speech to your school?