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Unreal conditionals (*second* and *third conditionals*) sometimes can be mixed. We use **mixed conditionals** when the time of the if-clause (*condition clause*) is not the same as the time in the result clause (main clause).



via <http://grammar-tei.com/mixed-conditional-pravila-primery-uprazhneniya/>

There are **two main types** of mixed conditional sentences:

1. Present Result of a Past Condition
2. Past Result of a Present or Continuing Condition

## Present Result of a Past Condition

We use this mixed conditional sentence to refer to an **unreal past condition** and its probable **present result**. More simply, we use this mixed conditional to explain a situation which is not real both in the past and in the present.

For these sentences, we use the *Past Perfect* in the “if”/condition clause and the **Present**

**Conditional** in the result/main clause.

### If Clause (Condition) Main Clause (Result)

If + Past Perfect          Present conditional (would + verb)



via <http://grammar-tei.com/mixed-conditional-pravila-primery-uprazhneniya/>

- **If you *had followed* the rules, we *wouldn't be* in trouble.** (but you didn't follow the rules - in the past - and now we're in trouble)
- **I *would have* a better job *if I had tried* harder.** (but I didn't try harder, and now I don't have a better job)

*Note: Again, the order of the clauses does not matter. But remember, when the condition clause comes first, we put a comma after it. If the main clause comes first, we don't need a comma.*

We can also use modals like '*might*' and '*could*' in the main clause instead of '*would*'.

- You ***might*** have more money ***if you had worked*** more hours.
- ***If we had invested*** in that company, we ***could*** be millionaires by now.

## Past Result of a Present or Continuing Condition

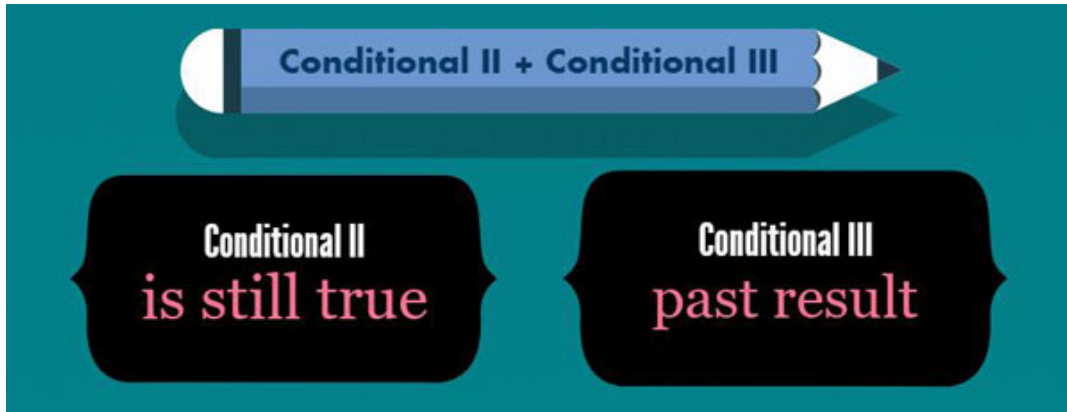
We use this type of mixed conditional sentence to refer to an **unreal present** situation and its probable - yet unreal - **past result**. We use it to explain conditions that are contrary to the present reality and results that are contrary to the past reality. The time in the condition clause is now or always while the time in the main clause is before now.

In this mixed conditional sentence, the condition or "if" clause uses the *Past Simple* tense, and the **Perfect Conditional** in the main/result clause.

## If Clause (Condition) Main Clause (Result)

If + Past Simple

Perfect conditional (would have + past participle)



via <http://grammar-tei.com/mixed-conditional-pravila-primery-uprazhneniya/>

- *I **would have touched** the snake **if I wasn't** afraid of them.*
- ***If we knew** about the project, we **would have helped**.*

Again, we can use modals like 'might' and 'could' instead of 'would' in the result clause.

- *She **could have climbed** the wall **if she were** stronger.*
- *I **might have invited** her to my baby shower **if we were** friends.*

Here's a good video from 7ESL explaining mixed conditionals:

Read more on this topic:

[Zero and First Conditional](#)

[The Second Conditional](#)

[The Third Conditional](#)

[Conditional Verbs and Expressions](#)