

Conditional Sentences 4:

The Third Conditional = It didn't happen

When we are talking about something that *might have happened* in the **past** but **did not** happen, we use the **past perfect (þáliðin tíð)** in the conditional clause (the if-part). In the result clause (the *then*-part), we use *would have, could have, should have* or *might have* + *the past participle* (lýsingarháttur þt. = 3. kennimynd).

The third conditional refers to the **past**. The if-event is therefore impossible since we cannot change the past.

Example:

- If I *had told* you the truth, you *wouldn't have believed* me.
 - You wouldn't have believed me if I had told you the truth.
- I *would have taken* you to the station if my car *hadn't broken* down.
 - If my car hadn't broken down, I would have taken you to the station.
- If you *had driven* the car, you *would (might / could) have had* an accident.
 - You would (might / could) have had an accident if you had driven the car.

Exercises

Put the verbs given in the spaces in the correct form. Two examples have been done for you

- 0 They would be rather offended if I did not go to see them. (**not / go**)
- 00 If you took more exercise, you would feel better. (**feel**)
- 1 If I was offered the job, I think I _____ it. (**take**)
- 2 I'm sure Amy will lend you the money. I'd be very surprised if she _____ (**refuse**)
- 3 If I sold my car, I _____ much money for it. (**not / get**)
- 4 If Mrs Barret _____ (**not buy**) the Daily Mirror, she would not have taken part in the competition.
- 5 A lot of people would be out of work if the factory _____ (**close**) down

- 6 What would happen if I _____ that red button? (**press**)
- 7 Liz gave me this ring. She _____ very upset if I lost it. (**be**)
- 8 Mark and Carol are expecting us. They would be disappointed if we _____ (**not / come**)
- 9 Would Tim mind if I _____ his bicycle without asking him? (**borrow**)
- 10 If she had forgotten to check the numbers on the card, she _____ (**not win**) a million pounds.
- 11 If somebody _____ in here with a gun, I'd be very frightened. (**walk**)
- 12 I'm sure Sue _____ if you explained the situation to her. (**understand**)
- 13 If I _____ his number, I would phone him. (**know**)
- 14 She _____ (**not ring**) her daughter if she had not been so excited.
- 15 I _____ that coat if I were you. (**not / buy**)
- 16 I _____ you if I could, but I'm afraid I can't. (**help**)
- 17 We would need a car if we _____ in the country. (**live**)
- 18 If we had the choice, we _____ in the country. (**live**)
- 19 If Annie _____ (**not be**) so tired, she would not have gone back to sleep.
- 20 This soup isn't very good. It _____ better if it wasn't so salty. (**taste**)
- 21 I wouldn't mind living in England if the weather _____ better. (**be**)
- 22 You're always tired. If you _____ to bed so late every night, you wouldn't be tired all the time. (**not / go**)
- 23 If I were you, I _____ (**not / wait**). I _____ (**go**) now.
- 24 I think there are too many cars. If there _____ (**not / be**) so many cars, there _____ (**not / be**) so much pollution.
- 25 She _____ (**not be interviewed**) if she _____ (**not become**) a millionairess.
- 26 If she _____ (**not win**) so much money, she _____ (**can't buy**) the grand villa.

 **Now do the interactive exercises.**