

Activity Type

Reading, writing and speaking activity, pairwork

Language Focus

Third conditional

Aim

To complete third conditional sentences with verb phrases.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Intermediate

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this productive worksheet activity, students practice the third conditional by completing sentences with missing verb phrases.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Explain that the students are going to practice the third conditional by completing sentences with missing verb phrases.

Tell the students to read the ten sentences on their worksheet and think about how they could complete the gaps. Tell the students that they should not write anything at this stage.

Explain that a plus sign (+) at the end of the sentence means the verb phrase is positive, and a minus sign (-) means the verb phrase is negative. Also, point out that a contraction (e.g. wouldn't) counts as one word.

Student A starts by reading the first sentence to Student B, adding in their guess for the missing verb phrase.

Student A has three chances to guess each missing verb phrase.

If Student A guesses the exact words that Student B has in bold on their worksheet, Student A scores three points, writes the missing words in the gaps, and moves on to the next sentence.

If their guess is wrong, Student A tries again for two points and then for one point.

This continues until all the third conditional sentences have been guessed.

It's then Student B's turn to guess the missing verb phrases in their sentences.

The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session. Go through any problem areas with the students. You might also want to ask the students which sentences express regret and which express criticism.

Student A

A. Read the third conditional sentences (1 to 10) and think about how you could complete the gaps. Don't write anything yet! Where there is a (+) the verb phrase is positive, and where there is a (-) the verb phrase is negative. A contraction (e.g. wouldn't) counts as one word.

1. If I had studied harder, I _____ the exam. (+)
2. If it _____, we could have gone to the beach. (-)
3. I would have sent you a postcard if I _____ your address. (+)
4. If I'd known it was going to be sunny, I _____ my sunglasses.
(+)
5. He would have been on time for the interview if he _____ the house late. (-)
6. If I had paid more attention in class, I _____ the lesson. (+)
7. If we _____ to the cinema, we would have seen Star Wars. (+)
8. We would have swum in the sea if there _____ so many jellyfish. (-)
9. If you had saved your money, you _____ a house. (+)
10. If I _____ them, I would have invited them to the party. (+)

B. Read sentence 1 to your partner, adding in your guess for the missing verb phrase. You have three chances to guess the missing words. If you guess correctly the first time, you win three points. You then write the missing words in the gaps. If your guess is wrong, try again for two points and then for one point. Continue with sentences 2 to 10.

C. Now, listen to Student B's guesses for the sentences below. Your partner must say the exact words in **bold** to win points.

- A. If I had not broken my leg, I **would have taken** part in the competition. (+)
- B. If it had snowed, we **could have gone** skiing. (+)
- C. If you had driven more carefully, you **wouldn't have had** an accident. (-)
- D. She **wouldn't have been tired** if she had gone to bed earlier. (-)
- E. If I **had seen** him at the meeting, I would have asked him. (+)
- F. If I hadn't eaten so much, I **wouldn't have felt** sick. (-)
- G. If we had taken a taxi, we **wouldn't have missed** the plane. (-)
- H. Their teacher would have been sad if they **hadn't passed** their exam. (-)
- I. If I **had had** more time, I would have gone to see him. (+)
- J. If we had played a little better, we **could have won** the match. (+)
- K. If you **had asked** me, I would have helped you. (+)

Student B

A. Read the third conditional sentences (A to K) and think about how you could complete the gaps. Don't write anything yet! Where there is a (+) the verb phrase is positive, and where there is a (-) the verb phrase is negative. A contraction (e.g. wouldn't) counts as one word.

- A. If I had not broken my leg, I _____ part in the competition. (+)
- B. If it had snowed, we _____ skiing. (+)
- C. If you had driven more carefully, you _____ an accident. (-)
- D. She _____ if she had gone to bed earlier. (-)
- E. If I _____ him at the meeting, I would have asked him. (+)
- F. If I hadn't eaten so much, I _____ sick. (-)
- G. If we had taken a taxi, we _____ the plane. (-)
- H. Their teacher would have been sad if they _____ their exam. (-)
- I. If I _____ more time, I would have gone to see him. (+)
- J. If we had played a little better, we _____ the match. (+)
- K. If you _____ me, I would have helped you. (+)

B. Listen to Student A's guesses for the sentences below. Your partner must say the exact words in **bold** to win points.

1. If I had studied harder, I **would have passed** the exam. (+)
2. If it **hadn't rained**, we could have gone to the beach. (-)
3. I would have sent you a postcard if I **had had** your address. (+)
4. If I'd known it was going to be sunny, I **would have brought** my sunglasses. (+)
5. He would have been on time for the interview if he **hadn't left** the house late. (-)
6. If I had paid more attention in class, I **would have understood** the lesson. (+)
7. If we **had gone** to the cinema, we would have seen Star Wars. (+)
8. We would have swum in the sea if there **hadn't been** so many jellyfish. (-)
9. If you had saved your money, you **could have bought** a house. (+)
10. If I **had seen** them, I would have invited them to the party. (+)

C. Now, read sentence A to your partner, adding in your guess for the missing verb phrase. You have three chances to guess the missing words. If you guess correctly the first time, you win three points. You then write the missing words in the gaps. If your guess is wrong, try again for two points and then for one point. Continue with sentences B to K.