

## Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Game: sentence completion, freer practice (group work)

## Focus

Mixed conditionals

## Aim

To practice completing mixed conditional sentences with a logical clause in the correct time-shift pattern (past condition > present result / present condition > past result).

## Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for each group of three or four and cut as indicated.

## Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

## Time

20 minutes

## Introduction

In this mixed conditionals game, students race to complete time-shift conditional sentences.

## Procedure

Divide the students into groups of three or four.

Give each group a set of cards.

Ask the students to shuffle the cards and place them face down in a pile on the table.

Before starting the game, demonstrate the two types of time-shift conditionals with these examples:

Past condition > present result:

If-clause: If I had learned German at school,... (these days)

Sample completions: I would speak it fluently these days. / I wouldn't need a translator these days.

Present condition > past result:

If-clause: If I were more adventurous,... (last year)

Sample completions: I would have gone surfing last year. / I would have travelled alone last year.

One student begins by picking up the top card from the pile and reading the if-clause and time marker, using the word 'blank' for the missing part of the sentence, e.g. 'If I had gone to bed earlier last night, BLANK today.'

The other students in the group then race to complete the main clause.

The first student to say a grammatically correct and appropriate main clause to complete the mixed conditional sentence wins and keeps the card.

Students must use the correct verb forms for the time shift and ensure the completion is logical. Different modals (would, could, might) are acceptable if logical.

The card reader decides if the sentence is grammatical, logical, and uses the correct time shift. If not, the card is placed at the bottom of the pile and play passes to the next student. If there is disagreement, the group votes.

The next student then picks up a card, and so on.

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

## Mixed Conditional Medley



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p>If I had gone to bed earlier last night,... today.</p>                   | <p>If I had learned to drive when I was 18,... now.</p>                   | <p>If I had taken that job offer abroad,... today.</p>            |
| <p>If I had saved more money in my twenties,... now.</p>                    | <p>If I hadn't agreed to that extra project last month,... this week.</p> | <p>If we had booked the tickets sooner,... at the moment.</p>     |
| <p>If I had studied harder at university,... now.</p>                       | <p>If my parents had moved to a different city,... now.</p>               | <p>If I had listened to your advice back then,... now.</p>        |
| <p>If I were more confident,... at the interview yesterday.</p>             | <p>If I didn't have to work so much,... last weekend.</p>                 | <p>If I were better at saying no,... last weekend.</p>            |
| <p>If I had more free time these days,... last month.</p>                   | <p>If I lived closer to the office,... this morning.</p>                  | <p>If I were better at cooking,... last night.</p>                |
| <p>If I were more organised,... last Monday.</p>                            | <p>If I weren't so busy at work,... last Saturday.</p>                    | <p>If I weren't so shy,... at the party last night.</p>           |
| <p>If I were a little more patient,... during the meeting this morning.</p> | <p>If I weren't allergic to dogs,... at my friend's house yesterday.</p>  | <p>If I had bought that apartment ten years ago,... today.</p>    |
| <p>If I didn't have so many meetings,... yesterday afternoon.</p>           | <p>If I were less busy these days,... last week.</p>                      | <p>If I had started exercising regularly years ago,... today.</p> |