

**\*Mixed conditionals**

You are now familiar with present, past and future conditional verb forms. Sometimes Unreal Conditional sentences are mixed. This means that the time in the if-clause is not the same as the time in the result. Study the examples below to learn how to mix conditional verb forms like a native speaker.

Verbs in green are in the Present Unreal Conditional.

Verbs in red are in the Past Unreal Conditional.

Verbs in purple are in the Future Unreal Conditional.

## Mixed Conditional Patterns

PAST

PRESENT

### Examples:

- If I **had won** the lottery, I **would be** rich.  
*But I didn't win the lottery in the past and I am not rich now.*
- If I **had taken** French in high school, I **would have** more job opportunities.  
*But I didn't take French in high school and I don't have many job opportunities.*
- If she **had been born** in the United States, she **wouldn't need** a visa to work here.  
*But she wasn't born in the United States and she does need a visa now to work here.*

PAST

FUTURE

## Examples:

- If she **had signed** up for the ski trip last week, she **would be joining** us tomorrow.  
*But she didn't sign up for the ski trip last week and she isn't going to join us tomorrow.*
- If Mark **had got** the job instead of Joe, he **would be moving** to Shanghai.  
*But Mark didn't get the job and Mark is not going to move to Shanghai.*
- If Darren **hadn't wasted** his Christmas bonus gambling in Las Vegas, he **would go** to Mexico with us next month.  
*But Darren wasted his Christmas bonus gambling in Las Vegas and he won't go to Mexico with us next month.*

PRESENT

PAST

## Examples:

- If I **were** rich, I **would have bought** that Ferrari we saw yesterday.  
*But I am not currently rich and that is why I didn't buy the Ferrari yesterday.*
- If Sam **spoke** Russian, he **would have translated** the letter for you.  
*But Sam doesn't speak Russian and that is why he didn't translate the letter.*
- If I **didn't have** to work so much, I **would have gone** to the party last night.  
*But I have to work a lot and that is why I didn't go to the party last night.*

## PRESENT

## FUTURE

### Examples:

- If I **didn't have** so much vacation time, I **wouldn't go** with you on the cruise to Alaska next week.

*BUT I DO HAVE A LOT OF VACATION TIME AND I WILL GO ON THE TRIP NEXT WEEK.*

- If Cindy **were** more creative, the company **would send** her to New York to work on the new advertising campaign.

*BUT CINDY IS NOT CREATIVE AND THE COMPANY WON'T SEND HER TO NEW YORK TO WORK ON THE NEW CAMPAIGN.*

- If Dan **weren't** so nice, he **wouldn't be tutoring** you in math tonight.

*BUT DAN IS NICE AND HE IS GOING TO TUTOR YOU TONIGHT.*

FUTURE

PAST

## Examples:

- If I **weren't going** on my business trip next week, I **would have accepted** that new assignment at work.  
*But I am going to go on a business trip next week, and that is why I didn't accept that new assignment at work.*
- If my parents **weren't coming** this weekend, I **would have planned** a nice trip just for the two of us to Napa Valley.  
*But my parents are going to come this weekend, and that is why I didn't plan a trip for the two of us to Napa Valley.*
- If Donna **weren't making** us a big dinner tonight, I **would have suggested** that we go to that nice Italian restaurant.  
*But she is going to make us a big dinner tonight, and that is why I didn't suggest that we go to that nice Italian restaurant.*

FUTURE

PRESENT

## Examples:

If I **were going** to that concert tonight, I **would be** very excited.

*BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GO TO THAT CONCERT TONIGHT AND THAT IS WHY I AM NOT EXCITED.*

If Sandy **were giving** a speech tomorrow, she **would be** very nervous.

*BUT SANDY IS NOT GOING TO GIVE A SPEECH TOMORROW AND THAT IS WHY SHE IS NOT NERVOUS.*

If Seb **didn't come** with us to the desert, everyone **would be** very disappointed.

*BUT SEB WILL COME WITH US TO THE DESERT AND THAT IS WHY EVERYONE IS SO HAPPY.*