

Conditional Sentences Type III

Conditional sentences Type III are about **unreal situations in the past**. In their if-clause, we use the **past perfect tense** and in their main clause, we use “**would have/could have/might have**” followed by the past participle of the verb.

Examples:

If you had studied, you would have passed.

- You didn't study.
- You didn't pass.

If Tom hadn't wasted his time yesterday, he could have done his homework.

- Tom wasted his time.
- Tom didn't do his homework.

If Sally had been driving carefully, she might not have had an accident.

- Sally was not driving carefully.
- Sally had an accident.

You would have made a handsome profit if you had invested your money in the stock market last year.

- You didn't make a handsome profit.
- You didn't invest your money in the stock market.

Conditional Sentences Type IV

Conditional sentences type IV deal with both the past and the present time: the condition is related to the past, but the result concerns the present. The if-clause of a conditional sentence type IV looks like the if-clause of a conditional sentence type III, but its main clause resembles that of type II. In other words, we use the **past perfect tense** in its if-clause and “**would/could/might**” followed by the simple form of the verb in its main clause.

Examples:

Situation: A student of High-Intermediate 2 failed the final exam last term and he is repeating this level now.

The teacher tells him,

- *“If you had passed the final exam last term, you would be in High-Intermediate 3 class now”.*
- *“If you hadn’t failed the final exam last term, you wouldn’t have to repeat High-Intermediate 2”.*

Situation:

You advised your brother to invest his money in housing three years ago, but he didn’t. There has been a sharp rise in prices.

You tell him,

- *“If you had invested your money in housing three years ago, you would be a rich man now”.*

Point:

In conditional sentences type III, both the condition and the result are related to the past. But in conditional sentences type IV, the condition concerns the past, but the result is related to the present time.

Wishes about the Past

Wishes about the past conditions show our regrets. We use the **past perfect** tense in the that-clause which follows “wish” to express regret about the past.

Examples:

I wish (that) I had studied financial management instead of civil engineering at university.

- I studied civil engineering, but now I think it was a wrong decision and financial management was a better field of study for me.

Sally wishes (that) she had been driving carefully.

Sally wishes (that) she hadn’t been driving carelessly.

- Sally had an accident because she was driving carelessly. Now she is regretful about her driving.

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir/high2/>