

Intermediate 1
Unit 7 Grammar
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Conditional Sentences Type III

Conditional sentences type III are about **unreal conditions in the past**.

Point:

We use the **past perfect** tense in the if-clause of conditional sentences type III.

Past Perfect Simple: Subject + had(n't) + Past Participle + ...

Past Perfect Progressive: Subject + had(n't) + been + Verb+-ing + ...

progressive = continuous

Point:

We use **"would have"**, **"could have"** or **"might have"** followed by the past participle in the main clause of conditional sentences type III.

Examples:

Situation: Several years ago, the firefighters were putting out the fire in a high-rising building in Tehran. Unfortunately, the building collapsed and many of them got killed in the incident.

*If the firefighters **had left** the building, they **would have** survived.*

*If the firefighters **had left** the building, they **could have** survived.*

*If the firefighters **had left** the building, they **might have** survived.*

*The firefighters **would have** survived if they **had left** the building.*

*The firefighters **could have** survived if they **had left** the building.*

*The firefighters **might have** survived if they **had left** the building.*

➤ The firefighters didn't leave the building.

➤ The firefighters didn't survive.

Situation: Yesterday, Mary was driving carelessly and she had an accident.

*If she **hadn't been driving** carelessly, she **wouldn't have** had an accident.*

*If she **hadn't been driving** carelessly, she **couldn't have** had an accident.*

*If she **hadn't been driving** carelessly, she **might not have** had an accident.*

She wouldn't have had an accident if she hadn't been driving carelessly.
She couldn't have had an accident if she hadn't been driving carelessly.
She might not have had an accident if she hadn't been driving carelessly.

- Mary was driving carelessly.
- Mary had an accident.

Here are some more examples of conditional sentences type III:

- *If I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam.* (But I didn't study hard enough, and I failed the exam.)
- *If she had seen the sign, she could have avoided the accident.* (But she didn't see the sign, and she had an accident.)
- *If he had been more careful, he might not have broken his arm.* (But he was careless, and he broke his arm.)

You can also reverse the order of the clauses, but you don't need a comma in that case. For example:

- *He would have passed the exam if he had studied harder.*
- *She could have avoided the accident if she had seen the sign.*
- *He might not have broken his arm if he had been more careful.*

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://intermediate1(anglophone.ir))