Third conditional

Third conditional

If she hadn't been silly in class, she wouldn't have got told off.

If they had done their homework, they wouldn't have got punished.

If he had behaved well, he would have been chosen for the school play.

Third conditional meaning

If she hadn't been silly in class, she wouldn't have got told off.
- Was she silly in class? Yes
- Did she get told off? Yes

If they had done their homework, they wouldn't have got punished.
- Did they do their homework? No
- Did they get punished? Yes

If she had visited London, would she have visited Big Ben?
- Did she visit London? No
- Did she visit Big Ben? No

Third conditional structure

If she hadn't been silly in class, she wouldn't have got told off.

She wouldn't have got told off if she hadn't been silly in class.

If they had done their homework, they wouldn't have got punished.

They wouldn't have got punished if they had done their homework.

If she had visited London, would she have visited Big Ben?

Would she have visited Big Ben if she had visited London?

GET IT RIGHT!

❌ ~~What had happened if I hadn't been here?~~

What would have happened if I hadn't been there?

❌ ~~If I would have seen him, I would have said hello.~~

If I had seen him, I'd have said hello.

Language in action

I had a terrible day today. First of all I was late. I told the teacher that if my bike hadn't broken, I wouldn't have been late, but she wasn't pleased. Then I got into trouble again for talking, but if I hadn't been late, I wouldn't have been asking my friend what to do. In the afternoon I walked home with a friend and I got into trouble with a policeman, but I wouldn't have been told off if I hadn't been walking where I shouldn't. Tomorrow I'll take the bus!

Can you remember the rules?

- To talk about unreal situations in the past and their imagined results, we use the third conditional.

- The third conditional has two parts (or clauses). We usually make the third conditional like this:

If clause   **Main clause**

If + past perfect   *would have / wouldn't have* + main verb

If she had asked me,   I'd have told her.

- We can change the order of the two clauses if we want to.

If I'd heard the alarm clock, I wouldn't have been late.

I wouldn't have been late if I'd heard the alarm clock.

- When we put the *if* clause first, we write a comma (,) after it. When we put the main clause first, there is no comma.

Speaking

What if … ?

If I'd been born an animal, ..?

If I'd been a child prodigy, …

If my family had moved abroad when I was a child, …

If I'd known at ten what I know now, …

If I had been born a different nationality, …

If I'd been born into a famous family, …

Use the words to make third conditional sentences.

break the law	get told off	do badly/well
invite	chocolate	not win
angry	score	mobile phone
prison	hang out	get into trouble
buy	holiday	hot

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