

Mixed Conditional – Cheat Sheet

Form 1: Function Past action / Present result

If clause – Past perfect (3rd conditional)

Main Clause - would*/ wouldn't + base verb **or** would / wouldn't + have to + base verb (2nd conditional)

Note: in place of 'would/wouldn't' we can use any of the other modal verbs: can, could, may, might, must, should.

Example: If I had eaten the fish like everyone else, I'd be sick too.

I didn't eat the fish in the past and therefore I am not sick at the present moment.

Form 2: Function - Past action / Future result

If clause – past perfect (3rd conditional)

Main clause - would + base verb (+ future word) **or** would + be going to + base verb **or**
would + be + present participle (2nd conditional with reference to the future)

Example: If you had answered that question correctly on the game show, we would be flying to Hawaii tomorrow.

The person didn't answer the question correctly in the past.

They didn't win a trip to Hawaii.

The trip was scheduled to start tomorrow.

They will not be going to Hawaii tomorrow.

Form 3: Function – Present action / Past result

If Clause – simple past (2nd conditional)

Main Clause – would + present perfect (3rd conditional)

Example: If I was just a little faster, I could have won the race yesterday.

Because I am not a little faster, (in general) I did not win the race yesterday.

Form 4: Function – Present action / Future result

If clause - simple past (2nd conditional)

Main Clause – would + base verb

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Example: If I was smarter, I wouldn't go with you to the party tonight.

I'm not using good judgment.

I am going to a party in the future.

I know I shouldn't.

Form 5: Function – Future action / Past result

If Clause - were / weren't + present participle (2nd conditional + assumed or indicated future)

Main Clause – would + present perfect (3rd conditional)

Example – If you weren't flying to France on Thursday, I would have invited you to the party on Friday.

You are flying to France on Thursday.

Because of this, I did not invite you to the party that will take place on Friday. (It would not be possible for you to attend the party therefore I did not invite you)

Form 6: Function – Future action / Present result

If Clause - were + present participle **or** were + going to + base verb **or** did + base verb (2nd conditional + assumed or indicated future)

Main Clause - would + be + past participle/ adjective

Example - I think if I were the one driving the bus tomorrow, everyone would feel less nervous about the trip.

I am not driving the bus tomorrow.

The passengers that will be on the bus don't feel confident in the abilities of the person who will be driving the bus.

I believe the passengers trust my driving more than the person who will be driving the bus.

I don't believe I will drive the bus.