

## Past unreal conditional (3rd conditional)

A wished or imagined idea about a **past event** is sometimes called the **past unreal**. It is for talking about **possibilities** in the past.

The verb in the *wish* clause or *if*-clause is put in the **past perfect** (*had* + **past participle**) to show the past unreal.

The main clause (the “result” clause) will use *would have* + **past participle**.

When I was a child, I hated school. (This is the truth, what really happened. You hated school.)

If I *had liked* school better, I *would have studied* and [I *would have*] *learned* more. I wish I *had been* a better student.

(The truth is that you didn't like school, you didn't study, you didn't learn, you were not a good student, you didn't have good teachers, and your parents didn't force you to do your homework.)



If she *had reminded* me that yesterday was her birthday, I *would have bought* her a present. At least, I *would have sent* her a card.

(The truth is that she didn't remind you, so you didn't buy her a present.)



I wish I *had scored* a goal in the game last night! If I *had scored* a goal, I *would have felt* really happy.

If we had won, I *would have been* a hero.

(The truth is I didn't score a goal. And we lost the game.)



### Exercise

1. She didn't give me her phone number, so I wasn't able to call her.

If she \_\_\_\_\_ her phone number, I  
\_\_\_\_\_ able to call her.

2. He didn't have his wallet with him last night, so he didn't buy the book.

If he \_\_\_\_\_ his wallet with him, he  
\_\_\_\_\_ the book.

3. They didn't get to the airport in time, so they missed their flight.

If they \_\_\_\_\_ to the airport in time, they  
\_\_\_\_\_ their flight.

4. He wasn't able to open the wine bottle, so they didn't drink wine.

If he \_\_\_\_\_ able to open the wine bottle, they  
\_\_\_\_\_ wine.

1. She didn't give me her phone number, so I wasn't able to call her.  
If she had given me her phone number, I would have been able to call her.

2. He didn't have his wallet with him last night, so he didn't buy the book.  
If he had had his wallet with him, he would have bought the book.

3. They didn't get to the airport in time, so they missed their flight.  
If they had gotten to the airport in time, they would have missed their flight.

4. He wasn't able to open the wine bottle, so they didn't drink wine.  
If he had been able to open the wine bottle, they would have drunk wine.