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## MIXED CONDITIONALS

I know that we have learnt that we use the zero conditional by using simple present;

the second conditional by using the simple present near If and a simple future as a result clause... and the third conditional with If + past perfect, would have + past participle.

But I need to tell you that we can **mix the conditionals up**.

Frequently the time in the “if clause” and the time in the “result clause” are different: One clause may be in the **present (2nd Conditional)** and the other in the **past (3rd Conditional)**.

Notice that the second and the third conditionals are mixed in the sentences in the following examples.

TRUE: I **did not eat** breakfast several hours ago, so I **am** hungry now.

CONDITIONAL: **If I had eaten** breakfast several hours ago, I **would not be** hungry now.

(3rd Conditional - past)      (2nd Conditional - present)

TRUE: He **is not** a good student. He didn't **study** for the test yesterday.

CONDITIONAL: **If he were** a good student, **he would have studied** for the test.

(2nd Conditional - present)      (3rd Conditional - past)

TRUE: I **did not work hard at** school so I **don't have** a good job now.

CONDITIONAL: **If I had worked** harder at school, **I would have** a better job now

(3rd Conditional - past)

(2nd Conditional - present)

TRUE: We **didn't look** at the map so now we **are lost**

CONDITIONAL: **We wouldn't be** lost if **we had looked** at the map

(2nd Conditional - present)

(3rd Conditional - past)

TRUE: She **wasn't born** in the US, so she **needs** a visa to work there.

CONDITIONAL: **If she had been born** in the US, **she wouldn't need** a visa to work there.

(3rd Conditional - past)

(2nd Conditional - present)

TRUE: Mark **didn't get** the job. so he's **not moving** to New York.

CONDITIONAL: **If Mark had gotten** the job, **he would be moving** to New York.

(3rd Conditional - past)

(2nd Conditional - present)

TRUE: I **have** to work a lot and that's why I **didn't go** to the party last night.

CONDITIONAL: **If I didn't have** to work so much, **I would have gone** to the party last night.

(2nd Conditional - present)

(3rd Conditional - past)