

# Grammar Conditionals

## Express Regret and Relief with Third Conditional 2

Third Conditional – **If + past perfect, would / could / might + have + past participle** – is often used to talk about the feelings of **regret** and **relief**. Remember that the if-clause is hypothetical – it did not happen. Therefore:

We express **regret** when the result clause has a **positive** meaning – i.e. something positive did not happen:

*If I had bought that new dress, I would have looked great. BUT I didn't..., so I didn't look great. = 😞*

We express **relief** when the result clause has a **negative** meaning – i.e. something negative did not happen:

*If I had bought that new dress, I would have looked awful. BUT I didn't..., so I didn't look awful. = 😊*

(Note – it doesn't matter whether the result clause has a positive or negative verb form.)

In each question below, say whether the first sentence expresses **regret** or **relief**, then write a sentence from the prompts with the opposite sentiment. Finally, write a new sentence with the if-clause and mark it regret or relief:

1. a) If we had stayed at home last night, we would have caught my favourite film. r \_\_\_\_\_  
b) If we had stayed at home last night, miss / street / festival. r \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) If we had stayed at home last night, \_\_\_\_\_. r \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. a) If the courier had delivered the grill yesterday, I wouldn't have been at home to receive it. r \_\_\_\_\_  
b) If the courier had delivered the grill yesterday, have / barbecue. r \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) If the courier had delivered the grill yesterday, \_\_\_\_\_. r \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. a) We would still be friends if I hadn't interrupted Gemma's wedding. r \_\_\_\_\_  
b) she / not / marry / me / instead if I hadn't interrupted Gemma's wedding. r \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ if I hadn't interrupted Gemma's wedding. r \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. a) If you hadn't eaten the last chocolate, I could have eaten it. r \_\_\_\_\_  
b) If you hadn't eaten the last chocolate, you / miss out. r \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) If you hadn't eaten the last chocolate, \_\_\_\_\_. r \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. a) If we'd had two kids, we wouldn't have been able to focus all our attention on little Alan. r \_\_\_\_\_  
b) If we'd had two kids, there / be / friend / little / Alan. r \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) If we'd had two kids, \_\_\_\_\_. r \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. a) If I hadn't quit Instagram, I wouldn't have had enough time for volleyball practice. r \_\_\_\_\_  
b) If I hadn't quit Instagram, get / urgent / message. r \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c) If I hadn't quit Instagram, \_\_\_\_\_. r \_\_\_\_\_