

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair work

Focus

Third conditional

Aim

To guess verb phrases that complete third conditional sentences.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two worksheets for each pair of students.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this third conditional activity, students play a game where they guess verb phrases that complete third conditional sentences.

Procedure

Divide the students into pairs (Student A and B).

Give each student a corresponding worksheet.

Explain that the students are going to practice the third conditional by completing sentences with missing verb phrases.

Explain that a plus sign (+) at the end of the sentence means the verb phrase is positive, and a minus sign (-) means the verb phrase is negative. Also, point out that a contraction (e.g. wouldn't) counts as one word.

Student A starts by reading the first third conditional sentence to Student B, adding in their guess for the missing verb phrase.

Student A has three chances to guess each missing verb phrase.

If Student A guesses the exact words that Student B has in bold on their worksheet, they score three points, write the missing words in the gaps, and move on to the next sentence.

If the guess is wrong, they try again for two points and then for one point.

This continues until all the third conditional sentences have been guessed.

It's then Student B's turn to guess the missing verb phrases in their sentences.

The student with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session. Go through any problem areas with the students. You might also want to ask the students which sentences express regret and which express criticism.

Student A

A. Read sentence 1 to your partner, adding in your guess for the missing verb phrase. Plus (+) means the verb phrase is positive. Minus (-) means the verb phrase is negative. A contraction (e.g. wouldn't) counts as one word.

You have three chances to guess the missing words. If you guess correctly the first time, you score three points. You then write the missing words in the gaps. If your guess is wrong, try again for two points and then for one point. Continue with sentences 2 to 10.

1. If I had studied harder, I the exam. (+)
2. If it, we could have gone to the beach. (-)
3. I would have sent you a postcard if I your address. (+)
4. If I'd known it was going to be sunny, I my sunglasses. (+)
5. He would have been on time for the interview if he the house late. (-)
6. If I had paid more attention in class, I the lesson. (+)
7. If we to the cinema, we would have seen Star Wars. (+)
8. We would have swum in the sea if there so many jellyfish. (-)
9. If you had saved your money, you a house. (+)
10. If I them, I would have invited them to the party. (+)

Score

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	Total
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B. Now, listen to Student B's guesses for the sentences below. Your partner must say the exact words in **bold** to score points.

- a. If I had not broken my leg, I **would have taken** part in the competition. (+)
- b. If it had snowed, we **could have gone** skiing. (+)
- c. If you had driven more carefully, you **wouldn't have had** an accident. (-)
- d. She **wouldn't have been tired** if she had gone to bed earlier. (-)
- e. If I **had seen** him at the meeting, I would have asked him. (+)
- f. If I hadn't eaten so much, I **wouldn't have felt** sick. (-)
- g. If we had taken a taxi, we **wouldn't have missed** the plane. (-)
- h. Their teacher would have been sad if they **hadn't passed** their exam. (-)
- i. If I **had had** more time, I would have gone to see him. (+)
- j. If we had played a little better, we **could have won** the match. (+)



Student B

A. Listen to Student A's guesses for the sentences below. Your partner must say the exact words in **bold** to score points.

1. If I had studied harder, I **would have passed** the exam. (+)
2. If it **hadn't rained**, we could have gone to the beach. (-)
3. I would have sent you a postcard if I **had had** your address. (+)
4. If I'd known it was going to be sunny, I **would have brought** my sunglasses. (+)
5. He would have been on time for the interview if he **hadn't left** the house late. (-)
6. If I had paid more attention in class, I **would have understood** the lesson. (+)
7. If we **had gone** to the cinema, we would have seen Star Wars. (+)
8. We would have swum in the sea if there **hadn't been** so many jellyfish. (-)
9. If you had saved your money, you **could have bought** a house. (+)
10. If I **had seen** them, I would have invited them to the party. (+)

B. Now, read sentence A to your partner, adding in your guess for the missing verb phrase. Plus (+) means the verb phrase is positive. Minus (-) means the verb phrase is negative. A contraction (e.g. wouldn't) counts as one word.

You have three chances to guess the missing words. If you guess correctly the first time, you score three points. You then write the missing words in the gaps. If your guess is wrong, try again for two points and then for one point. Continue with sentences B to K.

- a. If I had not broken my leg, I part in the competition. (+)
- b. If it had snowed, we skiing. (+)
- c. If you had driven more carefully, you an accident. (-)
- d. She if she had gone to bed earlier. (-)
- e. If I him at the meeting, I would have asked him. (+)
- f. If I hadn't eaten so much, I sick. (-)
- g. If we had taken a taxi, we the plane. (-)
- h. Their teacher would have been sad if they their exam. (-)
- i. If I more time, I would have gone to see him. (+)
- j. If we had played a little better, we the match. (+)



Score

a.	b.	c.	d.	e.	f.	g.	h.	i.	j.	Total	
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