

English B2 · Third and mixed conditionals

Upper-intermediate English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The time machine of regret

The third conditional is the time machine of regret: the had row rewinds, the would have row replays.

Rewinding the past

If-side — the imagined past	Result side — the imagined result
If I had studied harder	I would have passed the test.
If you had left at eight	you would have caught the bus.
If we had brought an umbrella	we wouldn't have got wet.

Use the evidence

Speech compresses: If I'd known, I'd have come.

Your turn: rewind it

Your turn

If we ____ (bring) an umbrella, we wouldn't have got wet.

- A. would have brought
- B. had brought
- C. brought
- D. have brought

The past changes the present

third — imagined past, imagined past
result

If I had slept more, I wouldn't have been
tired yesterday.

Both sides in the past.

mixed — imagined past, imagined
present

If I had slept more, I wouldn't be tired
now.

If she had learned to cook, she wouldn't
order noodles every night.

Your turn: when does it land

Your turn

If she had learned to cook, she _____ noodles every night.

- A. wouldn't have ordered
- B. wouldn't order
- C. hadn't ordered
- D. doesn't order

The two-step costume

Rewind both verbs

If I had knew — wrong. If I had known — right.

If I would have known — never: would stays on the result side.

Say it aloud

Confess: If I had studied harder, I
would have passed the maths test.



The maths test sends its regards.



Weather: If we had brought an um-
brella, we wouldn't have got wet.



Mix it: If I had slept more, I wouldn't be tired
now — and I would stop talking about it.

Check yourself

- If I had left earlier, I would have caught the bus — both verbs rewind.
- If she had learned to cook, she wouldn't order noodles now — the mixed landing.
- If I had known — never if I would have known.
- had plus the participle: had brought, had known, had slept.