

Imaginative (Unreal) past conditional: Helpful Structures for Forming Questions

Warm-up

1. Take a look at the example questions in the box below. What similarities or patterns do you see?
2. Circle or underline any similarities or patterns that you find.
3. Compare the patterns that you found with a partner.

Could the teenager have avoided telling her parents if she had stolen a friend's identity?

Would you have reported the arson if you had discovered a fire in an abandoned building?

Review:

You already know how to form the Imaginative (Unreal) Past Conditional in sentence form.

Look at these examples:

Ex. 1. If you had answered, he would have offered a thin excuse for his presence.

Ex. 2. If he had known about the drunk driver, he should have told me.

Remember, this is used to talk about an unreal situation in the past. He (the police officer) imagines an unreal condition and an unreal result. Both parts of the sentence aren't real.

Attention: How to do it:

Condition clause	Result Clause
If + subject + (not) past perfect tense	subject + would/could/might (not) have + past participle
If the visitor had seemed suspicious,	you would have called us right away.
If you had not answered the door,	the burglar would have looked for a way to get into the house.

Review: Word Order for Forming Questions

These charts are reminders of how to form questions.

DO/DID WILL/WOULD CAN/COULD	SUBJECT	MAIN VERB	QUESTION MARK
Do	you	lock (your door)	?
Would	shoplifters	want to quit stealing	?
Can	criminals	get (an education in prison)	?

Remember, if you ask a YES/NO question, you must also use a follow-up question such as, "Why or Why not?" or "How?"

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW	HELPING/MODAL VERB	SUBJECT	MAIN VERB	QUESTION MARK
Where and when	did	the news story	happen	?
What	do	you	predict will happen (to the arsonists)	?
Why	should	neighbors	pay attention (to houses or apartments in the area)	?
How	can	social media	solve crime	?

Word Order for Forming Questions in Imaginative Past Conditional

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW	MODAL VERB	SUBJECT	HAVE +PAST PARTICIPLE	(CONDITION CLAUSE) IF + SUBJECT + (NOT) PAST PERFECT TENSE	QUESTION MARK
(Where and when)	would	you	have gone	if you had seen a crime	?
(What)	could	the neighbors	predict will happen (to the arsonists)		?
(Why)	should	I	pay attention (to houses or apartments in the area)		?
(How)	might	social media	solve crime		?

Practice 1

1. Use the question structures to write 5 – 7 discussion questions using the imaginative past conditional form.
2. These questions are preparation for our guest visitor from the Eugene Police Department.
3. You will choose your 5 best discussion questions from these questions after your teacher has checked them.

Question	Question Type
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	

Practice 2

1. Write 5 questions using any of the conditional forms or modal verbs that you have learned.

Question	Question Type
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	