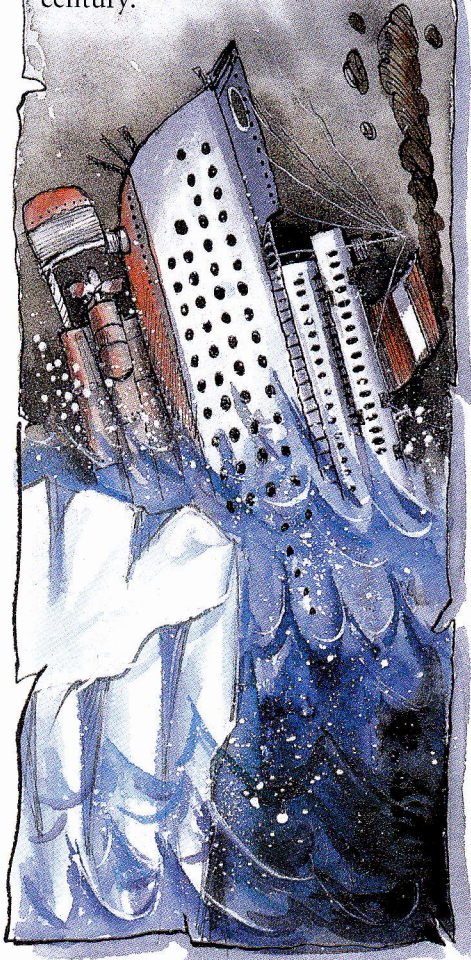


15 April 1912

Who was one of the luckiest men in the world on that day?

Mr J.P. Morgan. He was the owner of the great ship Titanic which hit an iceberg and sank that night in the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. About 1,500 people drowned. Mr Morgan had a ticket for the journey but he didn't go because he had to be at a meeting. If he **had gone**, he **would have been** in one of the biggest disasters of the twentieth century.



1 Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

- Was Mr Morgan a passenger on the Titanic? Yes No
- Did Mr Morgan drown? Yes No
- Why not?
Because he could swim well.
Because he didn't go on the ship.



GRAMMAR

A

Third conditional sentences are to talk about things that did or didn't happen in the past. They have two halves. Look:

if half

*If he hadn't had a business meeting,
If he had gone on the ship,
If the Titanic hadn't hit an iceberg,*

would/wouldn't have half

*he would have gone on the ship.
he would have seen it sink.
it wouldn't have sunk.*

2 Circle the **if** half and underline the **would/wouldn't have** half of each sentence.

- ▶ If the Titanic hadn't been so big, fewer people would have been on it.

- 1 If it hadn't sailed to America, it wouldn't have crossed the Atlantic.
- 2 If it hadn't crossed the Atlantic, it wouldn't have sailed into an ice field.
- 3 If it hadn't sailed into an ice field, it wouldn't have hit an iceberg.
- 4 If it hadn't hit an iceberg, it wouldn't have sunk.



B

The **if** half of third conditionals is to talk about things that have already happened. It's too late to change these things.

Use **had** + past participle.

*If the Titanic **hadn't sunk**, people **wouldn't have drowned**.*

(But it did sink.)

*If there **had been** more lifeboats, fewer people **would have drowned**.*

(But there weren't more lifeboats.)

3 Read the sentences. Answer the questions.

- If the Titanic hadn't hit an iceberg, it wouldn't have sunk.

Did the Titanic hit an iceberg?

Yes No

- 1 If the iceberg hadn't been so big, it wouldn't have damaged the ship.

Was the iceberg big?

Yes No

- 2 If the ship hadn't sunk, people wouldn't have been drowned.

Did the ship sink?

Yes No

C

The **would/wouldn't have** half of third conditionals is to say what would have happened if things had been different in the **if** half of the sentence. Use **would/wouldn't have** + past participle. Look:

*If the ship **hadn't hit an iceberg**, it **wouldn't have sunk**.*

= It did sink. It sank because it hit an iceberg.

*If the ship **hadn't sunk**, people **wouldn't have drowned**.*

= People did drown. They drowned because the ship sank.

4 Read the sentences. Answer the questions.

- If the water hadn't been so cold, more people would have lived.

Why didn't more people live?

Because the water was cold.

- 1 If it hadn't been dark, more people would have been found.

Why weren't more people found?

.....

- 2 If Mr Morgan hadn't had a meeting, he would have gone on the journey.

Why didn't Mr Morgan go on the journey?

.....

D

Usually in third conditional sentences the **if** half comes first, but you can put it second. It means the same thing. Look:

The Titanic wouldn't have sunk if it hadn't hit an iceberg.

= If the Titanic hadn't hit an iceberg, it wouldn't have sunk.

People wouldn't have drowned if the Titanic hadn't sunk.

= If the Titanic hadn't sunk, people wouldn't have drowned.

Put a comma (,) in the middle of the sentence when the **if** half comes first. You *don't* need a comma when it comes second.

5 Rewrite the sentences. Put the **would/wouldn't have half first.**

- If the water hadn't been so cold, fewer people would have died.

Fewer people would have died if the water hadn't been so cold.

- 1 If he'd seen it, the captain wouldn't have hit the iceberg.

- 2 If the metal had been stronger, the Titanic wouldn't have sunk.

- 3 If his company hadn't organised a meeting, Mr Morgan would have gone.

- 4 If there had been more lifeboats on board, more people would have lived.



PRACTICE

6 Read and complete the sentences.

- It was a warm winter in 1912. A lot of icebergs floated into the Atlantic.

If it *hadn't been* a warm winter, the icebergs
wouldn't have floated into the Atlantic.

- 1 There were more than two thousand people on the Titanic. A lot of people drowned. If there so many people on the ship, fewer people

- 2 There weren't enough lifeboats on the ship. A lot of people died.

If there more lifeboats, fewer people

- 3 Mr Morgan had a meeting. He didn't go on the journey.

If Mr Morgan a meeting, he on the journey.

4 The ship sailed into an ice field. It hit an iceberg.

If the ship into an ice field, it
..... an iceberg.

5 The water was very cold. Many people froze to death.

If the water so cold, fewer
people to death.

7

a Read what went wrong on board the Titanic.

The day everything went wrong

- It was a warm winter so icebergs floated into the Atlantic.
- There was a fire in the boiler room. The heat from the fire made the ship weak.
- The lifeboat practice was cancelled so many sailors didn't know how the lifeboats worked.
- The sailors didn't fill the lifeboats. Some left half empty. A lot of people drowned.
- There weren't enough lifeboats for all the passengers.
- The captain received lots of warnings about the icebergs but he didn't receive the most important warning. His ship hit the iceberg.
- The Titanic didn't slow down when it got to the ice field. It crashed into the iceberg.
- A ship called the Californian didn't hear the Titanic's calls for help because its radio was switched off.
- Another ship called the Carpathia heard the calls for help. Unfortunately it was a slow ship so it arrived an hour and twenty minutes after the Titanic had sunk.

b Now write as many sentences as you can. Use third conditional sentences and the information in 7a.

▶ *If the winter hadn't been warm, icebergs wouldn't have floated into the Atlantic.*

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8 Think of a day when everything went wrong. If you can't think of a real day, invent one. Write your ideas on a piece of paper first, then tell the class about your day. Use third conditional sentences.

- ▶ Pupil A *One day I forgot to set my alarm clock so I overslept.
If I hadn't overslept, I wouldn't have missed the school bus.
If I hadn't missed the school bus, I wouldn't have been late for school. If I hadn't been late for school, I wouldn't have missed my Maths lesson ...*

9 Ask your teacher if you can play this chain game.
One pupil starts the chain with a third conditional sentence.

- ▶ Pupil A *If I hadn't travelled to California last week, I wouldn't have gone to Hollywood.*
Pupil B *If I hadn't gone to Hollywood, I wouldn't have been offered a part in the film.*
Pupil C *If I hadn't been offered a part in the film, I wouldn't have met so many famous actors.*
Pupil D *If I hadn't met so many famous actors, I wouldn't have been invited to the Oscars.*

