

6.5 Grammar

Mixed conditionals

I can use mixed conditionals to talk about hypothetical situations in the past or present.

- 1 Read the article and find out what these two British actors think about their screen characters.

ACTORS LIKE THEIR SCREEN CHARACTERS. OR DO THEY?



Daniel Radcliffe

Daniel Radcliffe doesn't mind being called Harry Potter. **If he hadn't played the part of Harry Potter, he wouldn't be one of the richest young stars in cinema today.** But

- 5 there have been times when his fame has been difficult for him to deal with. **If he was less famous, he would have gone out dancing with his friends more,** but sadly, he's never had that freedom.

10 Robert Pattinson didn't like the character he played in the *Twilight* series. He says that **if Edward Cullen wasn't a fictional character, he would have been an axe murderer.**

15 Pattinson understands that **he wouldn't be so mega-famous if he hadn't played the role of Edward Cullen,** but he says it's really weird being famous for a character he doesn't like.



Robert Pattinson

- 2 Read the article again and match the situations with the results.

Situations

- 1 Radcliffe played Harry Potter. ☐
2 Radcliffe is very famous. ☐
3 Edward Cullen is fictional. ☐
4 Pattinson played Edward Cullen. ☐

Results

- a He didn't go out dancing much.
b He is very famous.
c He is very rich.
d He wasn't an axe murderer.

- 3 Match the conditional sentences in blue in the article with the situations and results in Exercise 2.

- 4 Read the GRAMMAR FOCUS and complete the gaps with *past* or *present*.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Mixed conditionals

You use a **mixed conditional** to describe certain imaginary situations and their imaginary results. There are two main types:

- 1 imaginary **'present'** condition → imaginary ² _____ result
if + Past Simple, **would/wouldn't have + past participle**
If he **was** less famous, he **would have gone out** dancing with his friends more.
- 2 imaginary ³ _____ condition → imaginary ⁴ _____ result
if + Past Perfect, **would/wouldn't + infinitive**
If he **hadn't played** the part of Harry Potter, he **wouldn't be** one of the richest young stars in cinema today.

Note: As well as *would*, you can also use *could*, *might* and *should* in mixed conditional sentences.

- 5 For each sentence, tick the explanations (a and b) that are correct.

- 1 If I'd watched the *Twilight* films, I'd know who Edward Cullen was.
a I didn't watch the *Twilight* films. ☐
b I know who Edward Cullen is. ☐
- 2 If I was interested in Harry Potter, I'd have read the books.
a I'm not interested in Harry Potter. ☐
b I haven't read any of the books. ☐
- 3 If Robert Pattinson was ugly, I might not have watched *Twilight*.
a Robert Pattinson is handsome. ☐
b I watched *Twilight*. ☐
- 4 Pattinson and Radcliffe wouldn't be enjoying so much success if they hadn't worked hard on these roles.
a They aren't enjoying success. ☐
b They worked hard on these roles. ☐

- 6 In pairs, compare your answers to Exercise 5 and correct the explanations that are wrong.

- 7 Use the prompts to write mixed conditional sentences. Begin with the words in brackets. Then tick the sentences that are true for you.

- 1 It's cold today, so you came to school by bus. (if)
If it wasn't cold today, I wouldn't have come to school by bus.
- 2 You're reading this book because your friend recommended it. (I)
- 3 You don't like football, so you didn't watch the game last night. (if)
- 4 You passed all your exams because you're a good student. (I)
- 5 You didn't have a big breakfast, so you're hungry now. (if)
- 6 You're learning how to drive because your parents paid for some lessons. (I)

- 8 Complete the sentences to make them true for you. Then compare with a partner.

- 1 If I didn't have a smartphone, (imaginary past result) ...
- 2 If antibiotics hadn't been invented, (imaginary present result) ...
- 3 If I had been born in the USA, (imaginary present result) ...
- 4 If I could fly, (imaginary past result) ...
- 5 If I was a better student, (imaginary past result) ...
- 6 If my dad hadn't woken me up this morning, (imaginary present result) ...
- 7 If my parents were famous actors, (imaginary past result) ...