MIXED CONDITIONAL SENTENCES *(self-study)*

It is possible for the two parts of a conditional sentence to refer to different times, and the resulting sentence is a "mixed conditional" sentence. There are two types of mixed conditional sentence:

A. Present result of past condition:

1. Form
The tense in the 'if' clause is the past perfect, and the tense in the main clause is the present conditional:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'IF' CLAUSE</th>
<th>MAIN CLAUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If + past perfect</td>
<td>Present conditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I had worked harder at school</td>
<td>I would have a better job now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If we had looked at the map</td>
<td>we wouldn't be lost.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Function
In these sentences, the time is *past* in the 'if' clause, and *present* in the main clause. They refer to an *unreal past condition* and its *probable result* in the *present*. They express a situation which is *contrary to reality* both in the past and in the present:

- 'If I had worked harder at school' is contrary to past fact - I didn't work hard at school, and 'I would have a better job now' is contrary to present fact - I haven't got a good job.
- 'If we had looked at the map' (we didn't), *we wouldn't be lost* (we are lost).

Examples:

- I *would be* a millionaire now if I *had taken* that job.
- If you'd caught that plane you'd be dead now.
- If you hadn't spent all your money on CDs, you *wouldn't be broke*. 

B. Past result of present or continuing condition.

1. Form
The tense in the *If*-clause is the simple past, and the tense in the main clause is the perfect conditional:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'IF' CLAUSE</th>
<th>MAIN CLAUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If + simple past</td>
<td>Perfect conditional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If I wasn't afraid of spiders</td>
<td>I would have picked it up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If we didn't trust him</td>
<td>we would have sacked him months ago.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Function
In these sentences the time in the *If*-clause is *now or always*, and the time in the main clause is *before now*. They refer to an unreal present situation and its probable (but unreal) past result:

- 'If I wasn't afraid of spiders' is contrary to present reality - *I am* afraid of spiders, and 'I would have picked it up' is contrary to past reality - *I didn't* pick it up.
- 'If we didn't trust him' is contrary to present reality - we *do* trust him, and 'we would have sacked him' is contrary to past reality - we *haven't* sacked him.

Examples:

a. If she *wasn't afraid* of flying she *wouldn't have travelled* by boat.
b. *I'd have been able* to translate the letter if my Italian *was better*.
c. If *I* was a good cook, *I'd have invited* them to lunch.
d. If the elephant *wasn't* in love with the mouse, *she'd have trodden* on him by now.
