

## Education: Mixed Conditionals



Example 1:

If I hadn't messed around in class, I wouldn't be in detention.

Example 2:

If I wasn't such a cheeky student, I wouldn't have messed around in class.

- 1) Divide each sentence into 2 clauses.
  - Which clause is the cause? If/would
  - Which clause is the result? If/would
- 2) Look at each clause. Highlight or underline the clause that refers to the past in green and the present in red.
- 3) Match the forms to the rules and the examples.

Forms:

- a. If + past perfect, would/wouldn't + infinitive
- b. If + past simple, would/wouldn't + have + past participle

Rules:

1. To talk about a present clause and a past result.
2. To talk about a past cause and a present result.

1) If I hadn't messed around in class, I \_\_\_\_\_ with my friends at the cinema now.

2) If I wasn't such a cheeky student, I \_\_\_\_\_ a pencil at my teacher yesterday.

3) If I hadn't messed around in class, I \_\_\_\_\_ fun playing football now.

4) If I wasn't such a cheeky student, I \_\_\_\_\_ all through class last Friday.

5) If I hadn't messed around in class, I \_\_\_\_\_ TV right now.



Movie still from "The Breakfast Club" Universal Pictures, A&M Films, Channel Productions, 1985

## Answer key

### Page 1

#### Exercise 1

- Which clause is the cause? If/would
- Which clause is the result? If/would

#### Exercise 2

Example 1:

If I hadn't messed around in class, I wouldn't be in detention.

Example 2:

If I wasn't such a cheeky student, I wouldn't have messed around in class.

#### Exercise 3

**Form a** - If + past perfect, would/wouldn't + infinitive – matches Rule 2 and Example 1.

**Form b** - If + past simple, would/wouldn't + have + past participle – matches Rule 1 and Example 2.



## Answer key continued

### Gap Fill:

- 1) If I hadn't messed around in class, I would be with my friends at the cinema now.
- 2) If I wasn't such a cheeky student, I wouldn't have thrown a pencil at my teacher yesterday.
- 3) If I hadn't messed around in class, I would be having fun playing football now.
- 4) If I wasn't such a cheeky student, I wouldn't have talked all through class last Friday.
- 5) If I hadn't messed around in class, I would be watching TV right now.

### Glossary

(n) detention = **a school punishment in which a student is kept in school after the other students leave**

(adj) cheeky = **slightly rude or behaving without respect, but often in a funny way**

*Informal* (phrasal verb) mess around = **to waste time, often by doing things that are not important**

*E.g. Stop messing around and do your homework!*

all through = **from the start to the end of something**

**Language level: B2 – C1**

