For an unreal condition in the past, use the past perfect tense in the if clause. In the main clause, use would have + past participle.

If she had known about the problems, she wouldn’t have taken the job.
If they hadn’t been on vacation, they would have come to the meeting.

You can also use might or could in the main clause of an unreal condition in the past.

If Jane had studied biology in high school, she could have taken advanced biology this year.
If she hadn’t studied English, she wouldn’t have been able to get a better job.
If they had stayed longer, they might not have caught the bus.

**Language Notes:**

1. In the if clause, use had been able to for the past perfect tense of could.
   
   If we had been able to make more money, we would have bought a car.

2. A noun clause can be used within an if clause. Use a past form in the noun clause:
   
   If I had known that you were going to come to the party, I would have given you a ride.

**EXERCISE 1** Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in parentheses to complete the unreal condition in the past. Use the modal provided.

**Example** It rained. We didn’t go on the picnic. If it hadn’t rained, we (would / go) _______ would have gone _______ on the picnic.

1. She was sick. She didn’t attend school. She could have gone to school if she (not / be) _______ sick.
2. He drove too fast. He was in an accident. He (might / not / be) _______ in an accident if he hadn’t driven so fast.
3. The teacher made him stay after class. If he had done his homework, the teacher (would / not / make) _______ him stay after class.
4. They were not at home when the fire started. If they had been at home when the fire started, they (might / be) _______ in danger.

**EXERCISE 2** Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb in parentheses to complete the unreal condition in the past.

**Example** If she (not / make) _______ had not made _______ plans already, she (come) _______ would have come _______ to the party.

1. I (give) _______ you a ride if I (know) _______ that your car was in the garage.
2. I (not / read) _______ that book if she (not / recommend) _______ it.

3. She (not / take) _______ the job, if she (known) _______ that the boss was so unfriendly.
4. If the car (not / stop) _______ in time, the child (be) _______ badly injured.
5. I (stay) _______ longer if I (have) _______ the time off from work.
6. If her parents (not / move) _______ to this country, she (be born) _______ in Greece.

**EXERCISE 3** Complete the sentence with your own ideas. Each sentence should be an unreal condition in the past.

**Example** If I had woken up earlier today, I would have gone to the gym.

1. If the teacher hadn’t assigned this homework, _______.
2. If I had been born 100 years ago, _______.
3. If I had learned English as a child, _______.
4. If I hadn’t taken this English class, _______.

**EXERCISE 4** Read the paragraph and correct the mistakes. There are 12 mistakes.

**Example** If I hadn’t needed to study, I could have gone to the movies with you.

Last night I saw a movie that made me think about how everything is connected. In the movie, a girl moves to a small town to live with her father. If her mother didn’t have remarried, she wouldn’t have moved. If she hadn’t moved, she wouldn’t met a very handsome vampire. If she had knew that he was a vampire, she might haven’t liked him so much. But once she found out that he was a vampire, she had already fallen in love with him. If he hadn’t became a vampire, they never would be have met. If he had remain a human, he would has died 100 years earlier. Luckily, he only drinks animal blood. If he had want to drink human blood, she will have been in trouble!