

**1** Osserva questa frase:

FATTO: *I **didn't** hear my alarm clock. So I **didn't** arrive at school on time.*

Ora osserva quest'altra frase:

<b>If + PAST PERFECT</b>	<b>+ would have/'d have</b> + PARTICIPIO PASSATO
<i>If I <b>had</b> heard my alarm clock,</i>	<i>I <b>would have</b> arrived on time.</i>
(= Se avessi sentito la sveglia, sarei arrivato in tempo.)	

Si usa **if + Past Perfect + would have** per immaginare l'opposto di ciò che è veramente avvenuto nel passato. Questa costruzione si chiama periodo ipotetico di terzo tipo (= the Third Conditional):

Ecco un'altro esempio:

FATTO: *Jane **didn't** come on her usual train. So I **didn't** see her.*

*If Jane **had** come on her usual train, I **would** have seen her.*

Nota come si immagina sempre la situazione opposta alla realtà passata, così si possono anche usare le forme negative **wouldn't have** e **hadn't**:

*John F. Kennedy **wouldn't have** died in 1963 if he **hadn't** gone to Dallas.* (= John F. Kennedy non sarebbe morto nel 1963 se non fosse andato a Dallas.)

*I **would have** phoned you if I **hadn't** lost your phone number.* (= Ti avrei telefonato se non avessi perso il tuo numero di telefono.)

*I **wouldn't have** gone to the museum if I **had** known it was shut.* (= Non sarei andato al museo se avessi saputo che era chiuso.)

**2** Si può usare **might have** e **could have** invece di **would have**:

*If you **had** told me, I **could have** helped you.*  
(= ... avrei potuto aiutarti.)

*John **might have** come to the party if you **had** asked him nicely.*

(= Forse John sarebbe venuto ...)

## Esercizi

**A** Leggi questa storia su Ellen.

In May 1992 Ellen lost her job in London. She didn't have much money in the bank, so she was very worried. She looked in the newspapers and she saw an advertisement for a job as a translator from German into English. She didn't speak German very well, so she didn't apply for it. In June, she heard about some teaching jobs abroad because a friend phoned to tell her about them. She phoned the company, and they asked her to go for an interview with the director. Ellen thought the interview went badly, but in fact the director was happy with the interview and offered Ellen a job in Spain. However, Ellen couldn't start at once because she didn't know any Spanish. She took a course to learn the language. She was good at languages and she made rapid progress. So by September she had a new job, and she still had a little money left in the bank.

Ora scrivi delle frasi su di lei usando le parole tra parentesi.

0 (If Ellen/have/a lot of money in the bank, she/not/be/so worried)

*If Ellen **had had** a lot of money in the bank, she **wouldn't have** been so worried.*

0 (If she/not/look/in the newspapers, she/not/see/the advertisement)

*If she **hadn't** looked in the newspapers, she **wouldn't have** seen the advertisement.*

1 (If she/speak/German very well, she/apply/for the job)

- 2 (If her friend/not/phone, she/not/hear/about the teaching jobs)  
.....
- 3 (If she/not/contact/the company, they/not/ask/her to go for an interview)  
.....
- 4 (If the interview/go/badly, the director/not/offer/Ellen a job)  
.....
- 5 (If Ellen/know/some Spanish, she/start/at once)  
.....
- 6 (If she/not/be/good at languages, she/not/make/rapid progress)  
.....

**B** Utilizza le informazioni tra parentesi per completare queste frasi.

- 0 (Sam didn't get the job as translator because he failed the exam.)  
Sam *would have got* ..... the job as a translator if he *had* ..... not *failed* ..... the exam.
- 1 (Alan lost our phone number, so he didn't phone us.)  
If Alan ..... not ..... our phone number, he ..... us.
- 2 (Sally broke her leg, so she didn't go on holiday.)  
If Sally ..... not ..... her leg, she ..... on holiday.
- 3 (We didn't make a cake because we forgot to buy any eggs.)  
We ..... a cake if we ..... not ..... to buy some eggs.

**C** Nei seguenti dialoghi, dei genitori fanno domande ai loro figli adolescenti su certe cose che non hanno fatto. Utilizza le informazioni date per scrivere frasi ipotetiche di terzo tipo sulle varie situazioni, come nell'esempio.

- 0 'Why didn't you eat your dinner, Mark?' ~ 'Because I had a big lunch at Joe's house earlier.'  
Mark *would have eaten his dinner if he hadn't had a big lunch at Joe's house earlier.* .....
- 1 'I thought you were going to the concert last night, Deborah.' ~ 'I wanted to, but I had a lot of homework.'  
Deborah .....
- 2 'Didn't you get some new trainers, Nick?' ~ 'No, the shop was closed.'  
Nick .....
- 3 'You said you would come home early, Tom.' ~ 'Yes, but there was a bus strike.'  
Tom .....
- 4 'Didn't you have volleyball practice, Michael?' ~ 'No, the coach was ill.'  
Michael .....
- 5 'Why didn't you send the letter, Peter?' ~ 'I didn't have a stamp.'  
Peter .....
- 6 'Didn't you buy some new books, Diane?' ~ 'No, I lent all my money to Terry.'  
Diane .....