

Language check **Conditionals**

Conditionals are generally used to predict the consequences of likely situations (Type 1) or of unlikely or hypothetical situations (Type 2) or to talk about hypothetical situations in the past (Type 3).

Find an example of each type in the text on page 87.

Mixed conditionals contain two clauses, each of which refers to a different time (future, present or past).

Which time is referred to in each clause in the following example?

If there *hadn't been* an oil crisis in the 1970s, people *wouldn't be* so worried today.



For more information, see page 161.

Practice

1 Complete the following mixed conditional sentences using the appropriate form of the verbs in brackets. Does each clause refer to the future, the present or the past?

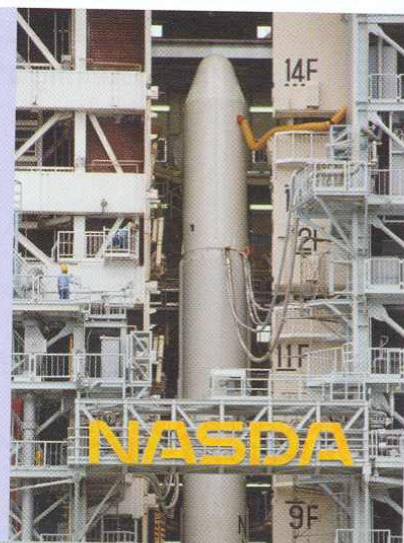
- Pollution levels (be) would be lower today if planners had designed cities for pedestrians and not for cars.
- I (buy) _____ an electric car already if they were cheaper and more reliable.
- If I (not/have) _____ so much work to finish by this evening, I'd have gone with you to the conference.
- If the government is not planning to build new nuclear power stations, then they (say) _____ so before they were elected.
- If nuclear waste disposal (not/be) _____ such a problem, then more power stations **would have been built** by now.
- The local people **would be** much poorer if oil (never / be discovered) _____.

2 Choose the correct forms of the words in *italics*.

In the late 1970s, NASA decided to abandon its SSP (Space Solar Power) project using satellites to transmit solar energy from space. If the project had succeeded / *succeeded*, many energy specialists and government planners ²would/will be less worried than they are today. But it didn't. Constructing the satellite ³would have cost / *would cost* \$78 billion and it ⁴will take / *would have taken* 30 years to install it in space.

NASDA, the Japanese space agency, has now taken up the challenge and is currently doing its own research into a similar system. Their scientists are confident that if

everything ⁵goes / *has gone* according to plan, they ⁶would/will be able to make their first satellite power transmission to Earth before 2025. But transferring solar energy to the planet by satellite won't be easy. In fact, if cheaper launch systems for space vehicles ⁷are not / *will not be* available in the near future, the cost of transporting and assembling even a simple system ⁸will/would remain prohibitive. However, one thing is clear: if there ⁹wasn't/isn't a slight chance of making the system work, the Japanese ¹⁰would not have invested / *will not invest* so much money.



Speaking

Make notes about something you planned to do in the past but weren't able to do, and something you dream about doing now but can't. Discuss the situations with a partner, using appropriate conditional forms.