

**15a** | *If...*

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# If... Worksheet 15a

## ACTIVITY

Pairwork and groupwork: speaking, writing, reading

## AIM

To play a game involving writing conditional sentences about the past.

## GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Third and mixed conditionals

## VOCABULARY

*direct mail, to review someone's performance, to iron out bugs, to recall a product, obsolete, to fire someone, to reach customers*

## PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair of students. Write a different phrase in the first box of each worksheet. Choose from these, or invent ones that reflect the interests and jobs of your students. With single company groups you may wish to include specific references to their company. For example:

*If the company had been more innovative...*

*If we hadn't built up this complicated bureaucracy...*

*If we'd listened to our customers more than we did...*

*If we'd subcontracted more of the production process...*

*If we'd given a larger discount...*

*If we'd chased invoices more...*

*If we hadn't introduced the budget range...*

*If we'd increased salaries...*

*If we'd entered the Japanese market ten years ago...*

## TIME

20-30 minutes

## PROCEDURE

Part 1

- Write the following table on the board:

IF	CONDITIONS	RESULTS
If	we hadn't increased prices in May	they wouldn't be obsolete now.
If	we'd spent more on direct mail	we'd probably have fired him.
If	we'd spent a little longer ironing out the bugs	we might not have had the drop in summer sales.
If	we'd spent more on the new computers last year	we wouldn't have had to recall the product.
If	we'd reviewed his performance after three months	we might have reached more customers.

- Ask the students to work in pairs to match the conditions to the results. (*If we hadn't increased prices in May we might not have had the drop in summer sales. If we'd spent a little longer ironing out the bugs we wouldn't have had to recall the product. If we'd spent more on direct mail we might have reached more customers. If we'd spent more on the new computers last year they wouldn't be obsolete now. If we'd reviewed his performance after three months we'd probably have fired him.*)
- Check the answers with the whole class.
- Assign to each pair one half sentence from the table and ask them to invent a new beginning or ending for it. For example: *If we hadn't increased prices in May we wouldn't have benefited from the increased demand in June,* or *We might not have had the drop in summer sales if we'd run a TV campaign.*
- Remind the students of how the two halves of the sentence can come in either order, as in the example in step 4 above. Ask them to practise by reversing their own sentences.

Part 2

- Give out the worksheets, one to each pair.
- Explain the rules:
  - Each pair must think of a logical completion for the half sentence on the worksheet and write it in the next box.
  - They then fold the worksheet over, so that only the words they have written show, before passing it on to the next pair on their left.
  - The worksheets are passed round the class until they are complete.
- When the worksheets are completed, fold them out flat and either put them on the walls for students to walk round and look at, or pass them around the class.