**The Third Conditional:**

**Chains of Causation**

**If +past perfect / would+ have+past participle**

imagined

result

imagined

event

* It talks about the past. It's used to describe a situation that didn't happen, and to

imagine the result of this situation.

* Contract auxiliary verbs and negatives.

e.g. If **he’d** studied more, he **wouldn’t** have failed.

* If you start with the would clause don’t use a comma.

e.g. He wouldn’t have failed If he’d studied more.

* You can change would to a modal verb such as may, might or could.

E.g. If he’d studied more, he **might not** have failed.

* Use “if only” to talk about something you wish had happened.

e.g. **If only** he’d studied more, he wouldn’t have failed.

He won the lottery. He met a beautiful woman. They got married. She met someone else. They got divorced. She took half of his money

1. If he hadn’t won the lottery ....…………………………………….……………………………………………
2. If they hadn’t met .…………………………………….………………….………………………………………….
3. ….........................................................……………..……….they wouldn’t have got divorced.
4. ……………………………………………………………….…she wouldn’t have taken half of his money.

**Now make third conditional sentences about the stories below:**

The cat ran up the tree. The cat got stuck. The owner rang the fire brigade. The fire brigade rescued the cat. The owner gave the firemen a cup of tea and cake to say thanks. While they were eating the cat escaped through the back door. As the firemen were leaving they ran over the cat.