

The 3rd conditional in context

# Mary's disastrous day

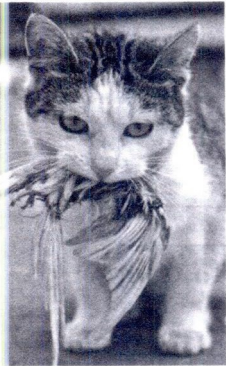


LAST Sunday night, Mary forgot to set her alarm, so she overslept and was an hour late for work. Mary's boss, Sally Collins, called her into the office and told her that because she was late, she couldn't go on a planned business trip to New York the following week. Sally said that she'd decided to send a more reliable person.

Mary was so upset about missing her business trip that she locked herself in the ladies' toilet and cried her heart out. Also, she completely forgot that she had arranged to meet her boyfriend, Ben, for lunch at an Italian restaurant. Eventually, she dried her eyes and returned to her desk. She looked at her computer screen, but it was totally out of focus. Then, Mary realized what had happened. The computer was all right, but she wasn't. She'd lost one of her contact lenses in the toilet.

At last, the day ended. Without her contact lens, Mary had to get the bus home because she couldn't see to drive. She waited at the bus stop for over an hour in the pouring rain and didn't get home until eight o'clock. Then she realized she had a missed call from Ben. She listened to her voicemail. Ben was very angry and reminded her that this was the third time she had forgotten to meet him. He said that she clearly didn't care for him, and that was the end of their relationship. Mary was heartbroken. In tears for the second time that day, she decided to go to bed before anything else could go wrong. However, she forgot to feed the cat.

The next day, with a streaming cold, she went downstairs to make herself a cup of tea and found bird feathers everywhere. The poor cat had resorted to desperate measures to get food. It had eaten the budgie! Mary went back to bed and pulled the covers over her head.



10 Mary wants to make it up with Ben. Complete their conversation using a verb from the box in the correct form.

- |           |                |        |
|-----------|----------------|--------|
| remember  | <del>end</del> | cancel |
| oversleep | forget         | happen |
| break up  | be             |        |

- M Hi, Ben. I'm so sorry. *Atishoo!* Everything went wrong for me yesterday. The last straw was when I found the cat had eaten the budgie. And in a way that was your fault!
- B What?! What on earth are you talking about?
- M Well, if you hadn't <sup>1</sup> *ended* our relationship, I would <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to feed the cat.
- B So it's my fault the budgie's dead? Come off it, Mary! If you hadn't <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ to meet me for lunch, I wouldn't <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ with you. It was the third time! You obviously don't care about me at all, and I've had enough.
- M But, but ... it was all Sally Collins' fault. If she <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ my trip to New York, I wouldn't <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ so upset and ... *sob ... atishoo!* forgotten our date.
- B So now it's Sally's fault. It's never *your* fault! But – why *did* she cancel your trip?
- M Well, you see, I was late for work and ... *atishoo!*
- B I see – late again! Now I understand. If you hadn't <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, all of this would never <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_!
- M OK, OK, I suppose it is all my fault. But Ben I'm soooo sorry, I really am ... *atishoooo!*
- B And how come you have such a bad cold?
- M Ah, well ... that's another story. *Atishoooo!*

9 **11.2** Mary Brown is a sales executive for a leading cosmetics company. Listen and read about her disastrous day. Then complete the sentences.

- Mary wouldn't have overslept if \_\_\_\_\_.
- Her business trip wouldn't have been cancelled if \_\_\_\_\_.
- If she hadn't been so upset, she \_\_\_\_\_ in the toilet and she \_\_\_\_\_ Ben for lunch.
- If she'd met Ben for lunch, \_\_\_\_\_.
- If she hadn't cried so much, \_\_\_\_\_.
- She could have driven home if \_\_\_\_\_.
- If she'd driven home, \_\_\_\_\_.
- She wouldn't have caught a cold if \_\_\_\_\_.
- Her boyfriend wouldn't have ended their relationship if \_\_\_\_\_.
- If she'd remembered to feed the cat, \_\_\_\_\_.

**11.3** Listen and check.