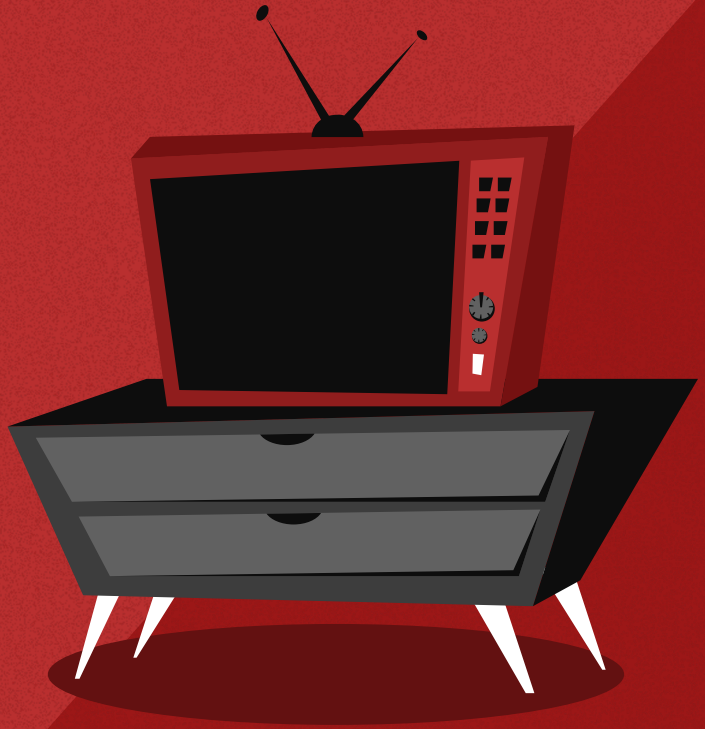
THE THIRD CONDITIONAL

An overview of the rules

FORM

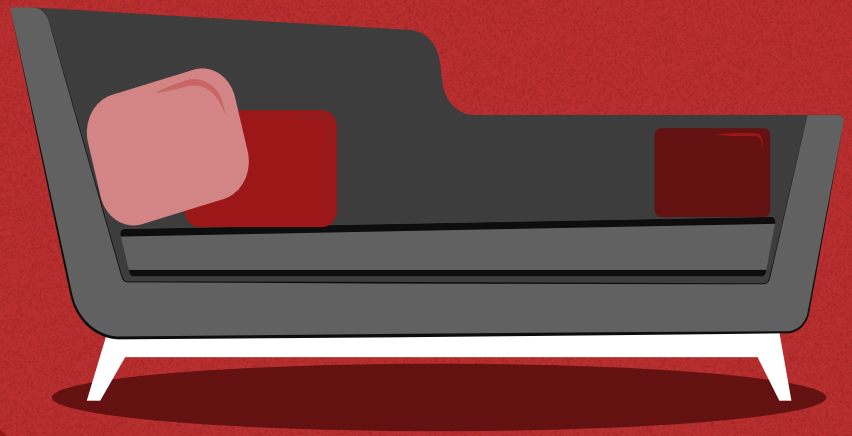


HOW DO WE FORM THE THIRD CONDITIONAL?

subordinate clause + **main** clause

if/unless + had + past participle

Would, could, might + have + past participle

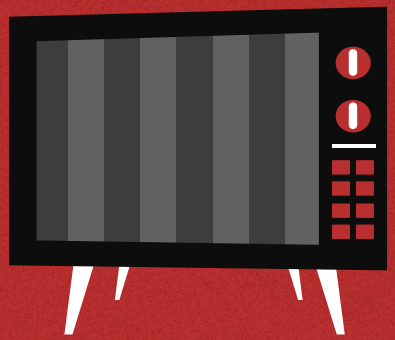


EXAMPLE 1

If anything had gone wrong, I would have contacted you.

subordinate clause
=> If + had + past participle

main clause
=> would + have + past participle

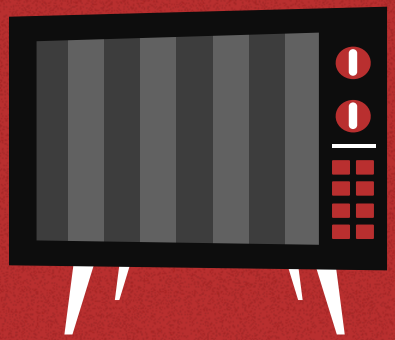


EXAMPLE 2

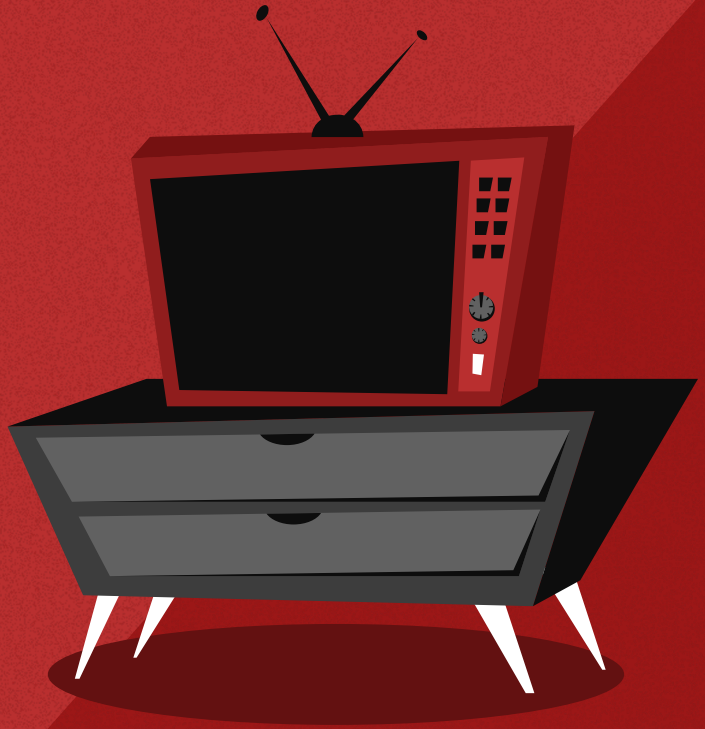
If I had been at home yesterday, the fire might never have started.

subordinate clause
=> If + had + past participle

main clause
=> might + have + past participle



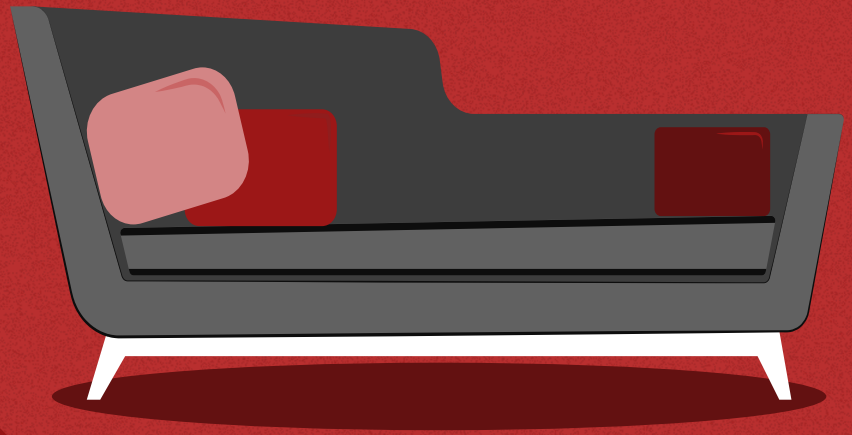
MEANING



WHEN DO WE USE THE THIRD CONDITIONAL?

To express that something might have happened in the past, but didn’t happen.

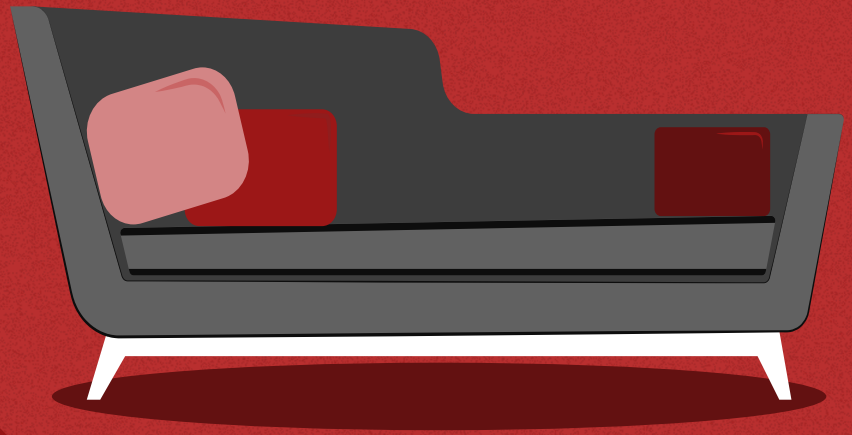
Example: We might have believed her, if she hadn’t lied so often before.



WHEN DO WE USE THE THIRD CONDITIONAL?

To express that something was impossible and therefore didn’t happen.

Example: If I had been you, I would have been more careful.



GOOD LUCK!