

Third conditional

Language level:	Intermediate (B1) +
Learner type:	Teens; Adults
Time:	30 minutes of class time (+ Homework)
Activity:	Using the Internet as a corpus
Topic:	God
Language:	Third conditional
Materials:	Internet connection; Worksheet

Disclaimer: Some may feel that this lesson plan trivialises religion. In addition, the corpus examples that are found may be sexist, homophobic, anti-religious and anti-vegetarianist. Only you can judge whether or not it is suitable.



Preparation, materials and equipment

1. In this activity, students will use a search engine such as Google to find example third conditional sentences.

Part one

During the first part of the activity, the teacher will demonstrate the search process to the students. This will require online access in the classroom/teaching venue. Here are some possibilities:

- Use a single online computer and ask students to gather around the screen
- Set up a single online computer with projector and screen

Part two

During the second part of the activity, students will take control. For this, they will require online access. Here are some possibilities:

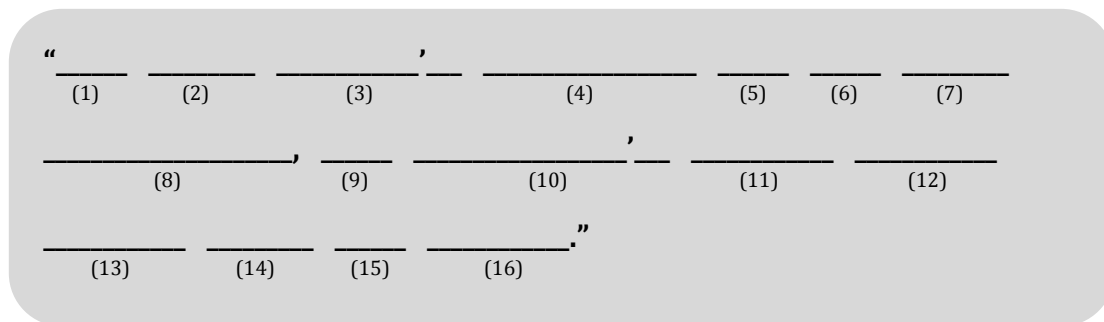
- If your teaching venue has wireless Internet, ask students to bring in their own laptops
- Take students to an IT room if you have one
- If students have Internet access at home, the activity can be done as a homework.

2. Make a photocopy of the Worksheet on page 7 for each student.
3. Find a picture of Homer Simpson using an online image search. Decide how you are going to display it in class (print it off, projector, etc.)

Lesson plan

1. Find out how many vegetarians or vegans there are in the class.
2. Show the picture of Homer Simpson and introduce the cartoon character if necessary (see Wikipedia for more). Tell students that in one episode of the Simpsons, Homer makes an excuse for eating meat. Ask students if they can guess what he says.

3. Write the following numbered grid on the board:

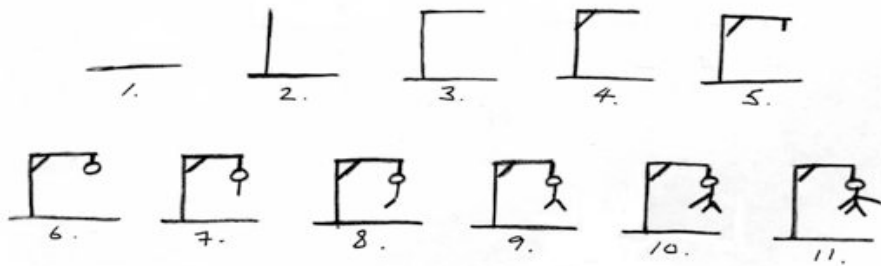


Note that this grid represents Homer’s carnivorous justification: “*If God hadn’t wanted us to eat animals, he wouldn’t have made them out of meat.*” Each line in the grid represents an individual word in the quotation.

4. Use the grid to play Grammar Hangman. Instead of suggesting individual letters, students try to guess whole words that fit on the grid as well as their specific locations. To do this, they will have to concentrate and use their knowledge of grammar.

Word hangman

- Start by adding two or three content words to the grid in the correct place. For example: *God* (2), *animals* (8), *made* (12), etc.
- Ask students to make suggestions for more words that would fit on the grid to complete Homer’s quotation. Importantly, they must also give you the numbered position onto which they think the word should be placed.
- Whenever a student identifies a word and it’s correct position, the teacher writes it on the correct place in the grid.
- Whenever a student gives an incorrect word or position, the teacher adds a part to the hangman diagram (see below). The teacher should make a note of all incorrect guesses on the board.
- Students win if they successfully manage to identify the whole quotation before making 11 incorrect suggestions.

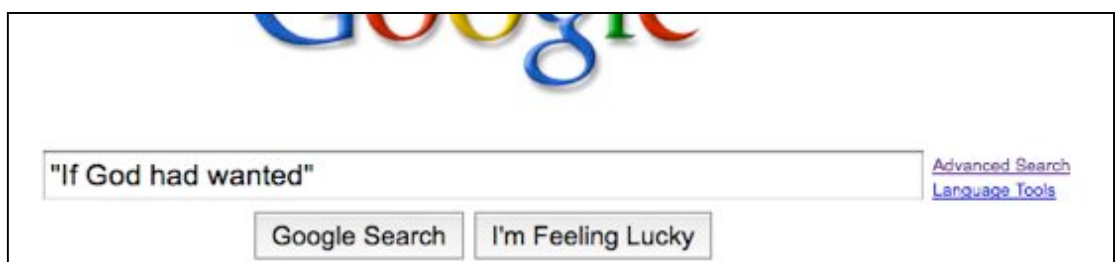


5. Ask students what they think about Homer's justification.
6. Ask students if they can think of any more quotations or example sentences that start with the words:

"If God had wanted ..." or "If God hadn't wanted ..."

If students are able to make any more suggestions, help with the grammar and write them on the board. If students are unable to think of any more examples, don't worry.

7. You are now going to demonstrate to your students how they can use the Internet to look for more examples. Go to your favourite search engine (Yahoo, Google, Altavista, Lycos, etc) and type either of the above phrases into the search window. Make sure you type it between inverted commas (""):



8. Click search and you will be given a page of partially contextualised examples of the language.



9. Bring a few of the example sentences to your students' attention. For example, the page above has the following:

- *If God had wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.*
- *If God had wanted me otherwise, he would have created me otherwise.*
- *If God had wanted us to be concerned for the plight of toads, he would have made them cute and furry.*
- *If God had wanted you to succeed, he would have made you a BMW.*
- *If God had wanted man to play soccer, he wouldn't have given us arms.*

Note that in some cases you will have to click on the links to see the whole sentence.

10. Give out copies of the **Worksheet** and ask students to complete it (for homework, in an IT room, etc).

Other possibilities:

- *If God had wanted us to fly, he would have given us wings.*
- *If God had wanted us to enjoy Mondays, he wouldn't have given us weekends.*
- *If God had wanted us to run around naked, we would have been born that way.*
- *If God had wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.*
- *If God had wanted us to think for ourselves, he wouldn't have invented television.*
- *If God had wanted journalists to get everything right the first time, he wouldn't have given us copy editors.*
- *If God had wanted us to learn about science stuff, he would have made it easier to understand.*
- *If God had wanted the Scots to rule the world, he would never have given them whisky.*

Follow up

Take back the completed worksheets and choose the 8 funniest or most thought-provoking examples that were found. Type them, give copies to your students, and ask them to translate the sentences into their own language(s) on a separate piece of paper. Then take back the original English sentences and ask students to translate the translated sentences back into English.

Disclaimer

Some students may consider that this lesson plan trivializes religion and feel offended. Also, example sentences that students find may be sexist, homophobic, antireligious, etc. Only you can judge whether or not an activity is suitable.

Teachers should:

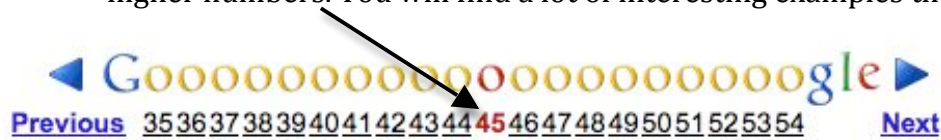
- Get to know their students.
- Make professional decisions about classroom content.
- *Not* hold this website responsible when things go horribly wrong.

Worksheet

Use a search engine to find 8 sentences that begin with the phrase, “*If God had wanted ...*” (Don’t forget the “inverted commas”). Write the sentences in the spaces below.



- Include any additional information, only if necessary.
- Make sure you choose examples that you like and understand.
- You could also try: “*If God hadn’t wanted...*” or “*If God had intended ...*”.
- Don’t just look at the first few pages that the search engine finds. Go up to the higher numbers. You will find a lot of interesting examples there.



	Any additional notes (where it came from, who said it, etc)
1. If God had wanted ...	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	