

God is a DJ

Level: Intermediate & Up

Objective: To practice 3rd Conditional Structures

Video: God is a DJ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfX-s4dcYBg>

Plan: Write the question, “What if God were a DJ?” on the board. Put the students in small groups and have them come up with ideas of what the world **would** be like. **WARNING:** Some Muslim students will find this question disconcerting or disrespectful. Either explain that it is perfectly acceptable in English and they need to be familiar with such questions or intro with something else.

An alternative is to ask students if they know what the “butterfly effect” is. Ask them to give you an example or two. Start the clip and pause it at the accident scene. Ask the students what chain of events might have led up to the accident.

Show the clip through the part where the DJ first rewinds the scene back to the ball going back into the woman’s bag. Now ask how the accident happened. Together with the class write the chain of events up on the board with spaces under each sentence, like this:

The woman dropped her bag.

The ball fell out.

The ball rolled into the biker.

The bike swerved into the road.

The car crashed into him.

I would cover auxiliary vocabulary as the scenes come up (to swerve, a needle, a drug dealer, to mace, to trip). Now, go back with the students and ask them to imagine that the woman hadn’t dropped her bag. How would events have been different? Write the example, “If the woman hadn’t dropped her bag, the ball wouldn’t have fallen out.” Do the next one together with the students and try to get them to do the rest without your help.

Now, hand out Worksheet 1. The students need to match the sentences. The first one could be done quickly together with the 2nd attempt being done in pairs. The 3rd attempt is best left optional. I find it more productive to show the final attempt and then have the students call out sentences according to what happened.

Another great idea is to do part two or three as a mingle. Cut up page 5 or 6 and hand each student one of the cards. They then have to find the matching half of the sentence by walking around and asking others what theirs is. Finally, once they have found their match, they need to talk to other pairs and arrange themselves in the order it happened up at the front of the class. This way everyone talks to each other and recalls the video.

Extension Activities:

After the video is completed you could put students with a new partner and have them flip the paper over and then recall the events of the video. Their partner would then repeat the butterfly effect 3rd conditional sequence.

Also, since the activity focuses on negative grammar, to get some positive grammar examples with would, quickly run through what would have been different if God hadn't reversed the scene(s).

As a follow-up to this activity have students think of a really interesting day in their life with a similar butterfly effect chain of events. The students can relate the story about someone they know as well if they don't feel comfortable. It can be a positive or negative. It's a good idea to explain to students that we often use the 3rd conditional for regrets. Demo an example.

Example: If I hadn't borrowed my brother's MP3 player without asking, I never would have lost it. If I hadn't lost it he wouldn't have been mad at me. If he hadn't been mad at me we wouldn't have fought, etc. Put the students in pairs and then have them relate their story to their partner. Their partner should then relay the story back to them, but imagining that the events hadn't happened.

Worksheet 1

The Initial Attempt:

a) The black man wouldn't have tripped	1) the ball wouldn't have rolled under the black man's foot.
b) The old woman wouldn't have been hit by the car	2) if the ball hadn't rolled under his foot.
c) If the mother hadn't dropped her bags,	3) he wouldn't have fallen into the old man.
d) If the black man hadn't tripped,	4) if she hadn't rolled into the street.

2nd Attempt:

a) The ball wouldn't have rolled	1) he wouldn't have tripped on it and kicked it.
b) The drug dealer wouldn't have dropped the needle	2) if the philosophy student hadn't kicked the ball into him.
c) The mother wouldn't have screamed	3) if the girl's mother hadn't screamed.
d) The gangster wouldn't have fired his gun	4) if the woman running hadn't hit him.
e) If the ball hadn't rolled into the philosophy student,	5) if the old man hadn't fallen into his arms.
f) The gangster wouldn't have started a fight	6) if her daughter hadn't picked up the needle.
g) The old man wouldn't have had a heart attack.	7) if the mother hadn't dropped her bags.
h) the old woman wouldn't have maced the black man,	8) if he hadn't fallen into the black man.

The 3rd and Final Attempt:

- 1) If the DJ hadn't changed the direction of the ball, the old man _____
_____.
- 2) If the little girl _____,
the gangsters _____.
- 3) If the biker _____,
the man with the cell phone _____.
- 4) If _____
the dog _____.
- 5) If the dog _____,
_____.
- 6) If the drug dealer _____,
he _____.

The ball wouldn't have rolled	if the woman hadn't dropped her bags.
The philosophy student wouldn't have tripped and kicked the ball	if it hadn't rolled into him.
The gangster wouldn't have started a fight	if the philosophy student hadn't kicked the ball into him.
The drug dealer wouldn't have dropped the needle	if the woman running hadn't hit him.
The mother wouldn't have screamed	if her daughter hadn't picked up the needle.
The old man wouldn't have had a heart attack	if the girl's mother hadn't screamed.
The old woman wouldn't have maced the black man	if the old man hadn't fallen into his arms.
The gangster wouldn't have fired his gun	if he hadn't fallen into the black man.

If the DJ hadn't changed the direction of the ball,	the old man wouldn't have picked it up.
If the little girl hadn't walked between the gangsters,	they would have fought.
If the biker hadn't hit the man with the cell phone,	the sandwich wouldn't have flown and landed near the other man.
If the sandwich hadn't landed near the man's feet,	the dog wouldn't have run over to him.
If the dog hadn't run over to the man,	the couple would never have met.
If the drug dealer hadn't seen the old couple dancing and the happy couple,	he wouldn't have given the money to the philosophy student.

Answer Key: Note – For Attempt 3, there are obviously other possible sentences. Accept anything reasonable.

The Initial Attempt:

- 1) If the mother hadn't dropped her bags, the ball wouldn't have rolled under the black man's foot.
- 2) The black man wouldn't have tripped if the ball hadn't rolled under his foot.
- 3) If the black man hadn't tripped, he wouldn't have fallen into the old man.
- 4) The old woman wouldn't have been hit by the car if she hadn't rolled into the street.

The 2nd Attempt:

- 1) The ball wouldn't have rolled if the mother hadn't dropped her bags.
- 2) If the ball hadn't rolled into the philosophy student, he wouldn't have tripped on it and kicked it.
- 3) The gangster wouldn't have started a fight if the philosophy student hadn't kicked the ball into him.
- 4) The drug dealer wouldn't have dropped the needle if the woman running hadn't hit him.
- 5) The mother wouldn't have screamed if her daughter hadn't picked up the needle.
- 6) The old man wouldn't have had a heart attack if the girl's mother hadn't screamed.
- 7) The old woman wouldn't have maced the black man if the old man hadn't fallen into his arms.
- 8) The gangster wouldn't have fired his gun if he hadn't fallen into the black man.

The 3rd and Final Attempt:

- 1) If the DJ hadn't changed the direction of the ball, the old man wouldn't have picked it up.
- 2) If the little girl hadn't walked between the gangsters, they would have fought.
- 3) If the biker hadn't hit the man with the cell phone, the sandwich wouldn't have flown and landed near the other man.
- 4) If the sandwich hadn't landed near the man's feet, the dog wouldn't have run over to him.
- 5) If the dog hadn't run over to the man, the couple would never have met.
- 6) If the drug dealer hadn't seen the old couple dancing and the happy couple, he wouldn't have given the money to the philosophy student.