


If-clauses and Sustainability – My Climate-Friendly Home

Looking Back: Missed Opportunities


 **Unit Question:** How can we make our homes more climate-friendly and energy-efficient while saving money on rising utility bills?


TASK A - Warm-Up: Looking Back ★ ★

1. Compare the following heating systems and decide if an old oil heating system or a modern heat pump is more sustainable. Which advantages did older systems have?

Think about the following aspects:

- energy efficiency
- CO₂ emissions
- long-term costs
- environmental impact

 **optional:** You may use the Internet to find additional information about heating systems. Make sure to use reliable sources and follow your school's guidelines.

2.  **Key question:** Imagine that sustainable technologies had been introduced earlier. What might have happened? Write down 2 – 3 ideas (notes only).

TASK B - Vocabulary Activation ★ ★

Choose two terms from the vocabulary box.

1. **Write one sentence about the past (simple past):**
 - The family ...
2. **Describe the consequence:**
 - As a result, ...
3. **Think Ahead:**
 - What effect did this have on energy use, costs or the environment in the long term?

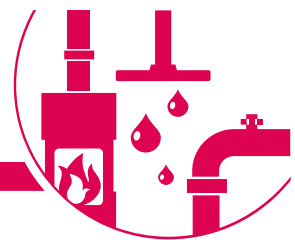
(heat pump – renewable energy – smart thermostat – insulation – water-saving device – CO₂ emissions – energy efficiency – utility bills)

TASK C - Grammar Focus: Type III Conditionals ★ ★

1. **Compare the sentences:**
 - If the family installs a heat pump, it will save energy.
 - If the family installed a heat pump, it would save energy.
 - If the family had installed a heat pump, it would have saved energy.

 **Answer the questions:**

- Which sentence refers to the present/future?
- Which sentence describes an unreal situation now?
- Which sentence describes the past?



2. Describe what each type is used for.

- Type I → ...
- Type II → ...
- Type III → ...

3. Guided Practice – Complete the sentences:

- If renewable energy _____ (be installed) earlier, emissions _____ (decrease).
- If people _____ (use) water-saving devices, they _____ (save) more water.

4. Transform the sentences into Type III conditionals:

- The house was not insulated early. → It wasted energy.
☞ If the house ...
- The family didn't install a heat pump. → They had high costs.
☞ If the family ...

5. Guided Discovery:

Use your ideas from TASK B (Think Ahead).

☞ Now express your idea using a **Type III conditional**.

a) **Complete the sentence:** If the family _____, they would _____

b) **Develop your idea further:** If they had installed _____ earlier, they would have _____

TASK D – Reflection: Missed Opportunities ★ ★ ★

🌐 **Scenario:** Think about past decisions in energy and sustainability.

Choose one topic and write a short paragraph (3- 4 sentences):

- old heating systems • missing insulation • no renewable energy • no water-saving technologies

📌 **Structure your answer:**

- Describe the past situation.
- Explain what was done wrong or missing.
- Describe the consequences.
- Suggest what should have been done instead.

☑ **Your answer should include:**

- at least two Type III conditionals
- at least two technical terms
- a clear explanation of environmental or financial consequences

🔗 **Sentence support**

*If the house had ..., it would have ...
If the family had invested in ..., they would have ...
This would have reduced ...
As a result, ...*

RULE (TYPE III)
If + past perfect → would + have + past participle
✗ **Common mistake:** If the house would have been insulated earlier...
✓ If the house had been insulated earlier, it would have saved energy.



TASK E- Final discussion ★ ★ ★

1. **Discuss in pairs or groups:** Why is the profession of heating and plumbing technicians important for climate protection?

2. **Back to the Unit Question:**

How can we make our homes more climate-friendly and energy-efficient while saving money on rising utility bills?

Think about: What are the most effective solutions today? What should have been done earlier?

Write one final Type III sentence.