



Chain Of Events (1)



1. Student ability: **High Beginner ~ Intermediate**
2. Approximate length of lesson: **30+**
3. Number of students necessary: **3+**
4. Preferred age/maturity: **HS, College, Adult**
5. Type of lesson: **Pair Work Activity**

* * * * *

Language Target: Working with future perfect tense with conditionals while creating a long Chain of Events. The object of this lesson is to have pairs of students create a long chain of events.

Setting Up: Copy and cut the worksheets into slips. Prepare at least one slip from Worksheet A (“First Link”) and at least four slips from Worksheet B (“More Links”) for every student in class.

Also prepare either staplers, paste or tape (which the students will use to connect their links).

On the board, write the following:

What would have happened if you hadn't...

To the students say something like: *I'm so glad I set my alarm clock last night.* The students respond by saying: *What would have happened if you hadn't set your alarm clock last night?*

The conversation could develop according to this example: (T = Teacher, S = Students)

T: *If I hadn't set my alarm clock last night, I would have overslept this morning.*

S: *What would have happened if you had overslept this morning?*

T: *If I had overslept this morning, I would have been late for school.*

S: *What would have happened if you had been late for school?*

T: *If I had been late for school, I wouldn't have had time to prepare for this class.*

S: *What would have happened if you hadn't had time to prepare for this class?*

T: *If I hadn't had time to prepare for this class, I wouldn't have made this lesson.*

S: *What would have happened if you hadn't made this lesson?*

T: *If I hadn't made this lesson, we wouldn't be doing this. That's why I'm so glad I set my alarm clock last night.*

Getting Started: Pair the students and give each pair one slip from Worksheet A (**First Link**) and at least three slips from Worksheet B (**Next Link**).

One student (Student #1) begins by making a statement* such as: *I'm so glad I did my homework last night.*

Student #1 writes this on the slip next to Number 1 and hands the slip to Student #2.

Student #2 continues with: *What would have happened if you hadn't done your homework last night?*

Student #2 writes this on the slip under the first statement.

Student #1 takes a second slip (from Worksheet B), writes No. 2 in the box

and continues: *If I hadn't done my worksheet last night, I would have had to do it this morning.* Student #1 writes this on the slip and hands it to Student #2 who then writes: *What would have happened if you had had to do it this morning?*

Student #1 now attaches the two slips of paper together (staple, paste or tape – the first two links in the Chain of Events.)

Student #1 takes another slip, writes No. 3 in the box and continues: *If I had had to do it this morning, I wouldn't have had time for breakfast.*

Student #2 writes: *What would have happened if you hadn't had time for breakfast?*

Student #1 takes another slip, writes No. 4 in the box and continues: *If I hadn't had time for breakfast, I would have had to eat something on the bus.*

Student #2 writes: *What would have happened if you had had to eat something on the bus?* etc.

The students continue adding additional links to their chain.

After a set amount of time, pairs hold up their chains and the team with the longest **Chain of Events** is declared the winner. (They must read it to the class to confirm its validity, the other students could comment on the logical flow of the chain).

Variation 1: To add a little more action to this lesson, give each pair only one slip from Worksheet A (First Link) and keep all of the other link slips on your desk. When teams finish one link and need another, they must approach the desk and ask: *May I have another link, please?*

With so many students doing this project at the same time, there's bound to be a constant flow of traffic which adds a lot of energy to the classroom.

The same approach could be used for the stapler, paste or tape as well – students have to make an oral request.

Variation 2: Rather than doing this lesson in pairs, it can be done as a whole class activity with the teacher making the statements and all of the students asking (and writing) the questions.

Variation 3: When finished, all pairs of students could read their Chain of Events list. They could be encouraged to change into third person (**He's / She's so glad he / she didn't....**)

***Additional examples:**

I'm so glad I -

...went to the dentist last week.

...didn't go to the party last Friday.

...brought my umbrella today.

...didn't watch TV last night.

...remembered to call my friend.

...checked my cell phone earlier.

...didn't forget my wallet today.

Similar Lesson:

Chain Of Events 2

(Lesson Collection Set 4 – Lesson 11b)

Contributed by Kurt Scheibner

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