

Conditionals / Wishes / Unreal Past

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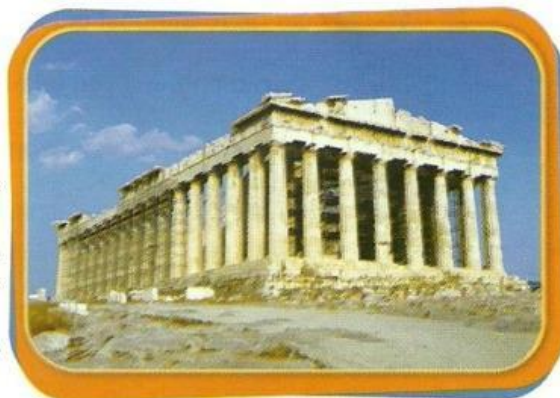
- 15 I wouldn't have been able to pass the exam if you (not/help) me.
- 16 What (he/say) if you told him the truth?
- 17 If you watch this film, you (get) an idea of how difficult life is for these tribes.
- 18 If you (return) the product within the time limit, we would have given you a full refund.
- 19 If she had realised how late it was, she (not/ring) us.
- 20 We would have some fresh air if you (open) the window.

2 Complete the text by putting the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

Chris Isles often thinks how different his life 1) *...would become...* (become) if he 2) (be) more adventurous. He's a rather cautious man who 3) (take) risks only provided that they 4) (not/unsettle) his cosy, well-organised life. Yet he sometimes feels that if he 5) (make) braver decisions, his life 6) (change) for the better, although deep down he knows that there's not much likelihood of this happening. For example, three years ago they offered him a job in Africa. If he 7) (accept) the offer, he 8) (have) to live in Africa for two years and he 9) (enjoy) an enormous increase in his salary as well. But Chris is not the type of person who will give up the security of his home unless he 10) (feel) even more secure about his new circumstances. Only if that job offered to him 11) (be) close to home, 12) (he/take) it. His friends try to convince him that he 13) (discover) the fun in life if he 14) (decide) to be a little more daring. Yet Chris says that as long as he 15) (remain) happy with the way things are, he 16) (not/make) any dramatic changes to the way he lives.

3 Rewrite the following as conditional sentences.

- 1 You have to go to Athens to see the Acropolis.
If *...you go to Athens, you can see the Acropolis...*
- 2 You need to pass your driving test before you can drive.
Unless
- 3 You must study harder to pass your exams.
If
- 4 As long as the rain continues, we can't play football.
Unless
- 5 Tom had to ask for a pay rise or he wouldn't have got one.
Unless
- 6 You need all the right spices to make an authentic Indian meal.
If
- 7 Going there by bus will be cheaper than going by train.
If
- 8 Entering this competition could win you a mountain bike.
If
- 9 We will have to leave without him if he doesn't arrive in the next 10 minutes.
Unless
- 10 We will be able to go swimming if the weather improves.
Unless



4 Rewrite the following as conditional sentences.

- 1 As long as it rains, I'll stay at home.
...if it rains, I'll stay at home. Only if it rains will I stay at home. I won't stay at home unless it rains...
- 2 I'll save money, then I'll go to France on holiday.
.....
.....

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- 3 Wait five minutes and I'll give you a lift.

- 4 I'll cook and you can do the washing-up afterwards.

Omission of "if"

If can be omitted in if-clauses. In this case **should** (conditionals type 1), **were** (conditionals type 2), and **had** (conditionals type 3), come before the subject.

If he **should** win the race, he will receive £1,000. ⇒ **Should he win** the race, he will receive £1,000.

If I **were** him, I wouldn't eat meat. ⇒ **Were I** him, I wouldn't eat meat.

If I **had** seen her, I would have spoken to her. ⇒ **Had I** seen her, I would have spoken to her.

5 Rewrite the following sentences omitting if.

- 1 If I were you, I wouldn't apply for the post of firefighter.
 ...*Were I you, I wouldn't apply for the post of firefighter...*
- 2 If you should go to the post office, could you buy me some stamps?

- 3 If anyone should ring, will you take a message?

- 4 If you had turned off the oven sooner, the pizza wouldn't have burnt.

- 5 If I were younger, I'd accept his offer.

Mixed Conditionals

All types of conditionals can be mixed. Any tense combination is possible if the context permits it.

	If-clause	Main clause	
Type 2	If she was sleeping all day, (She was sleeping all day)	she will feel better now. so she feels better now.)	Type 1
Type 2	If I were rich, (I'm not rich) If you paid more attention, (You don't pay attention)	I would have bought a new car. so I didn't buy a new car.) you wouldn't have made such a mess. so you made a mess.)	Type 3
Type 3	If I had been invited, (I wasn't invited)	I would go tonight. so I'm not going tonight.)	Type 2

6 Rewrite the following as mixed conditionals.

- 1 He's not a good worker, so he wasn't promoted.
 ...*If he were a good worker, he would have been promoted...*
- 2 They walked 40 kilometres, so they're exhausted now.

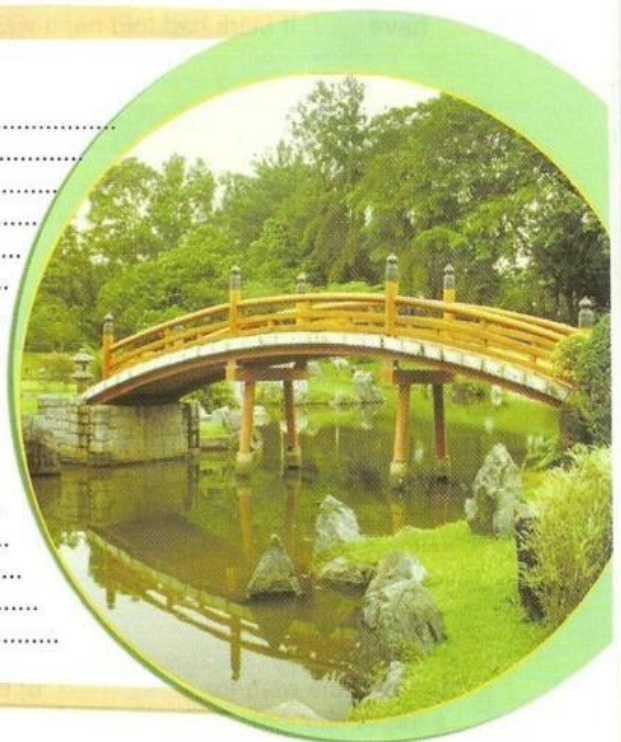
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- 3 You didn't make an appointment, so we can't see you tomorrow.
.....
- 4 She didn't take the medication and now she's ill again.
.....
- 5 The flight left on time, so they will be in Moscow by now.
.....
- 6 They were working in the rain all day, so they're soaking wet now.
.....
- 7 Jake was cleaning all morning so his room must be very tidy now.
.....
- 8 He's so gullible that he believed everything you said.
.....
- 9 She was talking all day, so her throat is sore now.
.....
- 10 He doesn't listen to anyone's advice, so he didn't do what you suggested.
.....

7 Complete the following sentences with an appropriate conditional clause.

- 1 If you want an exotic holiday, ...*you should go to Singapore*....
- 2 Unless you give him enough notice,
- 3 If you hadn't overfed the cat,
- 4 Had I known she was in trouble,
- 5 Only if he apologises
- 6 The argument wouldn't have started if
- 7 If I had more time,
- 8 You wouldn't have had so much trouble if
- 9 Should I meet her again,
- 10 Had I known how late I was going to be,
- 11 Only if we start recycling
- 12 If you had tried harder,
- 13 Had he given me clearer instructions,
- 14 If we leave at six o'clock,
- 15 Should she ring while I'm out,



8 Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

- 1 You'd better cut down on sugar.
were If I ...*were you, I would*... cut down on sugar.
- 2 Tom got lost because we didn't give him clear directions.
have Tom if we had given him clear directions.
- 3 If you don't tell him what he is doing wrong, he'll never improve.
unless He'll never improve what he is doing wrong.
- 4 She doesn't have many friends because she is shy.
were If she have many friends.

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- 5 We'll only sign the contract if he changes that clause.
will Only if he changes that clause the contract.
- 6 He's afraid of heights, so he won't come climbing.
were If he, he would come climbing.
- 7 Lucy can prepare the report, but she'll have to be given instructions.
only Lucy can prepare the report instructions.
- 8 As long as you give it back by Friday, you can borrow my book.
provided You can borrow my book by Friday.
- 9 If you don't lend us some money, we won't be able to go to the theatre.
unless We won't be able to go to the theatre some money.
- 10 She missed the meeting because her car broke down.
broken She wouldn't have missed the meeting if down.
- 11 I need to get this to her, but I haven't got her fax number.
had If, I could get this to her.
- 12 He forgot about the invitation so he didn't go to the dinner.
not Had the invitation, he would have gone to the dinner.
- 13 I think Bill should look for a better job.
were If look for a better job.
- 14 We didn't take a map so we got lost.
taken If, we wouldn't have got lost.
- 15 Mark didn't tell her it was a secret so she told Pam.
have If Mark had told her it was a secret, Pam.

Wishes

	Form	Use
I wish (if only) (wish/regret about the present)	+ Past tense	wish/regret about a present situation we want to be different
<i>I wish we were on holiday. (It's a pity we aren't.)</i>		
I wish (if only) (wish/regret about the present)	+ could + bare infinitive	wish/regret in the present concerning lack of ability
<i>I wish I could speak French. (BUT I can't)</i>		
I wish (if only) (regret about the past)	+ Past Perfect	regret that something happened or didn't happen in the past
<i>I wish you had listened to me. (BUT you didn't)</i>		
I wish (if only) (impossible wish for a future change)	+ subject + would + bare inf a) wish and would should have a different subject. We never say: I wish I would, He wishes he would etc b) wish + inanimate subject + would is used to express the speaker's disappointment or lack of hope	wish for a future change unlikely to happen or wish to express dissatisfaction; polite request implying dissatisfaction or lack of hope
<i>I wish he would stop lying. (BUT I don't think he will. – wish for a future change unlikely to happen)</i>		
<i>I wish they would take this more seriously. (dissatisfaction)</i>		
<i>I wish it would stop snowing. (BUT I'm afraid it won't stop snowing. – wish implying disappointment)</i>		
<i>I wish you wouldn't throw litter on the floor. (Please, don't throw litter on the floor. – request implying lack of hope)</i>		

- After **I wish** we can use **were** instead of **was** in all persons. *I wish he **were**/was more helpful.*

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9 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

I've had a long career. If I 1) *...hadn't been chosen...* (not/be/chosen) to play the lead in my school play, I 2) (not/become) what I am today. I was only nine and I'm sure I 3) (feel) nervous if I 4) (not/have) my parents' support. They encouraged me to take dancing classes after that. If only I 5) (not/refuse)! I love dance now and if I 6) (be) younger, I 7) (study) ballet. Apart from that, I don't have many regrets about my career. I wish I 8) (perform) more in the theatre, but I suppose if I 9) (have), I 10) (not/have) time to do so many film roles.



10 Write sentences, as in the example.

- 1 You didn't watch the news so you didn't know there was a train strike.
...I wish I had watched the news. If I had watched the news, I would have known there was a train strike....
- 2 You work long hours and you can't spend much time with your family.
.....
- 3 You wanted to travel abroad but you forgot to renew your passport.
.....
- 4 You can't drive a car so you can't get around easily.
.....
- 5 You wanted to play tennis but you broke your racquet.
.....
- 6 You want to go swimming but you have lost your swimming costume.
.....
- 7 You want to climb the mountain but you are afraid of heights.
.....
- 8 You didn't set your video correctly so you didn't record the film.
.....
- 9 You want to go out tonight but you haven't got enough money.
.....
- 10 You want to cook an Italian meal but you have no pasta left.
.....

11 Rewrite the text using wishes or if-clauses, as in the example.

Dear Mary,

I just had to write and let you know what a terrible day I've had today. As my neighbour is ill I offered to take her dog, Rex, for a walk. My neighbour did warn me that Rex is very energetic but I didn't listen. He dragged me all around the park. What a disaster! He was so excited that he knocked another neighbour off her bicycle. Unfortunately, she hurt her leg and she was very angry with me. I shouldn't have taken the dog for a walk. To make matters worse, I had forgotten to lock the front door as we'd left the house in a rush. My house was burgled. Why was I so stupid? I hadn't even renewed our house insurance. My husband keeps going on about it.

Well, hopefully tomorrow will be better.

With love,

Lisa

...I wish I hadn't had such a terrible day today....

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12 Complete the sentences using the words in bold. Use two to five words.

- It's a pity I can't go to the cinema today, but I have to babysit.
could I wish ... *I could go to the...* cinema today, but I have to babysit.
- It's a shame we didn't go out for dinner.
gone I wish for dinner.
- I don't have many friends here.
had I wish here.
- It's a pity I can't go out tonight, but I have to work late.
could I wish, but I have to work late.
- It's a shame we didn't go to Italy for our summer holidays.
gone I wish for our summer holidays.
- If it weren't raining, we could go for a walk.
stop I wish, so we could go for a walk.
- It's a pity that I wasn't given the position.
been I wish the position.
- I've been offered a job in Spain, but I can't speak Spanish.
speak I wish because I've been offered a job in Spain.
- If it weren't snowing, we could go for a drive.
stop I wish, so we could go for a drive.
- It's a shame we missed the beginning of the film.
missed I wish beginning of the film.

13 Complete the following sentences.

- If Bob hadn't broken his leg, ... *he could have come with us...*
- If only he hadn't lied to Sally,
- If John is in trouble,
- If only she had more patience,
- If she had won the competition,
- If Ann had set the alarm,
- If I hadn't left the oven on too long,
- If only I had written down her phone number,
- If she hadn't been sitting in the sun all afternoon,
- If Tom hadn't forgotten to lock the door,

Unreal Past

The Simple Past can be used to talk about imaginary, unreal or improbable situations in the present and the Past Perfect can be used to talk about imaginary, unreal or improbable situations in the past. This is called Unreal Past. Unreal Past is used as follows:

Past Simple

- **Conditionals Type 2** (unreal in the present)
*If I **were** you, I **would** leave now.*
- **wish** (present)
*I wish she **worked** more efficiently.*
- **I'd rather/sooner sb ...** (present)
*I'd rather you **left** the files here, please.*
- **Suppose/Supposing**
*Suppose you **found** money in the street, what would you do with it?*
- **as if/as though** (untrue situation in the present)
*He acts as if he **were** a genius.*
- **It's (about/high) time ...**
*It's about time you **learnt** to drive.*

Past Perfect

- **Conditionals Type 3** (unreal in the past)
*If I **had known** before, I **wouldn't** have come.*
- **wish** (past)
*If only he **hadn't lied** to me.*
- **I'd rather/sooner sb ...** (past)
*I'd rather you **had not spoken** like that yesterday.*
- **Suppose/Supposing**
*Suppose she **hadn't reminded** you, would you have remembered?*
- **as if/as though** (untrue situation in the past)
*She looked at me as if she **had never seen** me before.*

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14 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 Suppose they ...*had not turned up*... (not/turn up) to meet you, what would you have done?
- 2 If only I (not/eat) so much last night.
- 3 If she (tell) me it was a secret, I wouldn't have told anyone.
- 4 Suppose you (miss) the train, how would you have got home?
- 5 Suppose the teacher (catch) you cheating, what would you do?
- 6 I'd rather we (leave) now.
- 7 If only I (not/stay) out so late last night.
- 8 It's high time you (take) some responsibility for your actions.
- 9 Supposing you (fail) your exams, what would you have done?
- 10 It's time you (light) the fire - it's getting very cold.
- 11 She spends money as if she (have) loads of it, but I know she's in debt.
- 12 If we (install) a burglar alarm, this wouldn't have happened.
- 13 I'd rather we (go) home now.
- 14 I wish she (study) harder instead of watching TV all the time.
- 15 I'd rather she (not/wear) my dress last night. She's ruined it.

had better = should

- I **had better** + **present bare inf** (present/future reference)
*He **had better not wait** any longer.* (= He should not wait any longer.)
- It **would have been better if** + **Past Perfect** (past reference).
*It **would have been better if** he **had phoned** us to tell us not to wait.* (= He should have phoned us to tell us not to wait.)

would rather = I'd prefer

- when the subject of **would rather** is also the subject of the following verb
I'd rather + { **Present bare infinitive** (present/future reference) *I'd rather **stay** in tonight.*
 { **Perfect bare infinitive** (past reference) *I'd rather **not have taken** the bus, but I had no choice.*
- when the subject of **would rather** is different from the subject of the following verb
I'd rather sb + { **Past Simple** (present/future reference) *I'd rather **you didn't** shout so much.*
 { **Past Perfect** (past reference) *I'd rather **you had come** with me yesterday.*
- **prefer** + **gerund/noun** + **to** + **gerund/noun** (general) *I **prefer watching** TV **to reading** books.*
- **prefer** + **full infinitive** + **rather than** + **bare infinitive** (general preference)
*I **prefer to eat** what I want **rather than count** calories.*
- **would prefer** + **full infinitive** + **rather than** + **bare infinitive** (specific preference)
*I'd **prefer to play** football **rather than watch** it.*
- **would rather** + **bare infinitive** + **than** + **bare infinitive** *I'd **rather ski** **than skate**.*

15 Read the following situations, then make sentences using would rather or had better.

- 1 You want to play tennis not squash. ...*I would rather play tennis than play squash...*
- 2 You don't want her to invite him to the party.
- 3 You want to be left alone to read and don't want to go to the cinema.
- 4 It would be more sensible for you to go and rest for an hour.
- 5 I would prefer to spend more time in Spain and not go home.
- 6 We should have waited for him at home.
- 7 Mary always wears horrible orange lipstick. You wish she wouldn't.
- 8 Your friend turns up late and you are angry with him.