

3RD CONDITIONAL

A

Study this example situation:

Last month Gary was in hospital for a few days. Rachel didn't know this, so she didn't go to visit him. They met a few days ago.

Rachel said:

If I'd known you were in hospital, I **would have gone** to see you.

Rachel said: **If I'd known** (= If I **had known**) you were in hospital. This tells us that she *didn't* know.

We use **if + had ('d)** ... to talk about the past (**if I had known/been/done etc.**):

- I didn't see you when you passed me in the street. **If I'd seen** you, of course I would have said hello. (but I didn't see you)
- I didn't go out last night. I would have gone out **if I hadn't been** so tired. (but I was tired)
- If he had been looking** where he was going, he wouldn't have walked into the wall. (but he wasn't looking)
- The view was wonderful. **If I'd had** a camera with me, I would have taken some pictures. (but I didn't have a camera)

Compare:

- I'm not hungry. **If I was** hungry, I would eat something. (now)
- I wasn't hungry. **If I had been** hungry, I would have eaten something. (past)

B

Do not use **would** in the **if**-part of the sentence. We use **would** in the other part of the sentence:

- If I had seen** you, I **would have said** hello. (not If I **would have seen** you)

Note that **'d** can be **would** or **had**:

- If I'd seen** you, (I'd seen = I **had seen**)
- I'd have said** hello. (I'd have said = I **would have said**)

C

We use **had (done)** in the same way after **wish**. I **wish** something **had happened** = I am sorry that it didn't happen:

- I **wish I'd known** that Gary was ill. I would have gone to see him. (but I didn't know)
- I feel sick. I **wish I hadn't eaten** so much cake. (I ate too much cake)
- Do you **wish you'd studied** science instead of languages? (you didn't study science)

Do not use **would have** ... after **wish**:

- The weather was cold when we were on holiday. I **wish it had been** warmer. (not I **wish it would have been**)

D

Compare **would (do)** and **would have (done)**:

- If I'd gone to the party last night, I **would be** tired now. (I am not tired now – *present*)
- If I'd gone to the party last night, I **would have met** lots of people. (I didn't meet lots of people – *past*)

Compare **would have**, **could have** and **might have**:

- If the weather hadn't been so bad,

we would have gone out .
we could have gone out .
(= we would have been able to go out)
we might have gone out .
(= perhaps we would have gone out)

Exercises

40.1 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 I didn't see you when you passed me in the street. If ... I'd seen ... (I / see) you, I would have said ... (I / say) hello.
- 2 Sam got to the station just in time to catch the train to the airport. If ... (he / miss) the train, ... (he / miss) his flight too.
- 3 I'm glad that you reminded me about Rachel's birthday. (I / forget) if ... (you / not / remind) me.
- 4 I wanted to send you an email, but I didn't have your email address. If ... (I / have) your address, ... (I / send) you an email.
- 5 A: How was your trip? Was it good?
B: It was OK, but ... (we / enjoy) it more if the weather (be) better.
- 6 I took a taxi to the hotel, but the traffic was bad. ... (it / be) quicker if ... (I / walk).
- 7 I'm not tired. If ... (I / be) tired, I'd go home now.
- 8 I wasn't tired last night. If ... (I / be) tired, I would have gone home earlier.

40.2 For each situation, write a sentence beginning with If.

- 1 I wasn't hungry, so I didn't eat anything.
If I'd been hungry, I would have eaten something.
- 2 The accident happened because the road was icy.
If the road ... , the accident ...
- 3 I didn't know that Joe had to get up early, so I didn't wake him up.
If I ... that he had to get up early, ...
- 4 Unfortunately I lost my phone, so I couldn't call you.
If ...
- 5 Karen wasn't injured in the crash because she was wearing a seat belt.
...
- 6 You didn't have breakfast – that's why you're hungry now.
...
- 7 I didn't get a taxi because I didn't have enough money.
...

40.3 Imagine that you are in these situations. For each situation, write a sentence with I wish.

- 1 You've eaten too much and now you feel sick.
You say: I wish I hadn't eaten so much.
- 2 There was a job advertised in the paper. You decided not to apply for it. Now you think that your decision was wrong.
You say: I wish I ...
- 3 When you were younger, you never learned to play a musical instrument. Now you regret this.
You say: ...
- 4 You've painted the gate red. Now you think that red was the wrong colour.
You say: ...
- 5 You are walking in the country. You'd like to take some pictures, but you didn't bring your camera.
You say: ...
- 6 You have some unexpected guests. They didn't phone you first to say they were coming. You are very busy and you are not prepared for them.
You say (to yourself): ...