

## Conditionals - Wishes - Had Better/Would Rather - Unreal Past

## Wishes

- ◆ We use the verb **wish** and the expression **if only** to express a wish. **If only** is more emphatic than **I wish**.

◆ **wish/if only + past simple/past continuous**

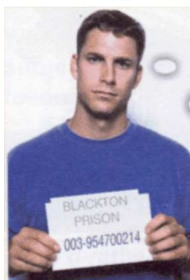
This structure is used when we want to say that we would like something to be different in the present.



*I wish/If only I didn't have to take the train to work every day.*

◆ **wish/if only + past perfect**

This structure is used to express regret that something happened or did not happen in the past.



*I wish/If only I hadn't stolen the motorbike.*

◆ **wish/if only + would**

This structure is used: a) for a polite imperative.

b) to express our desire for a change in a situation or someone's behaviour.



*I wish you would pay more attention!*

*I wish/If only he wouldn't give me so much work.*



- ◆ After the subject pronouns **I** and **we**, we use **could** instead of **would**.

e.g. *I wish I could travel abroad.* (NOT: ~~I wish I would travel...~~)

**Note:** We can use **were** instead of **was** after **wish** or **if only**.

e.g. *I wish he were/was more careful.*

13

**Match the items in column A with those in column B to make complaints using would/wouldn't. Then, decide which person from the list is making each complaint.**

*shopkeeper, businessman, traffic warden, flight attendant, doctor, campsite owner, lifeguard*

e.g. 1 - e ...'I wish my staff would get to work on time', says the businessman....

A	B
1 I wish my staff ...	a take their medication properly
2 If only drivers ...	b be more polite
3 I wish passengers ...	c not light fires in the forest
4 If only the customers ...	d park illegally
5 I wish campers ...	e get to work on time
6 If only patients ...	f follow the safety regulations
7 I wish bathers ...	g put their luggage in the lockers

14

**Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.**

- A: I wish Paul ...*would tell*... (tell) me what is wrong with him.  
B: Yes. He seems very upset, doesn't he?
- A: I wish I ..... (not/shout) at the children like that.  
B: Why? They were being very naughty.
- A: I wish you ..... (tidy) your room more often.  
B: Sorry. I'll try to.
- A: I wish I ..... (practise) harder before the concert.  
B: I thought you performed very well.
- A: If only Stuart ..... (call) me.  
B: Don't worry. I'm sure he'll phone soon.
- A: I wish I ..... (be) back at school again.  
B: Those were great days, weren't they?
- A: I wish Mark ..... (stop) playing his music so loudly.  
B: Why don't you ask him to turn it down?
- A: If only I ..... (buy) those shoes we saw today.  
B: Why not go back and buy them tomorrow?
- A: I wish you ..... (try) harder with your Maths homework.  
B: Sorry. I find it very difficult.
- A: If only we ..... (go) to France last summer.  
B: We could go this year if you like.

# UNIT 9

## Conditionals - Wishes - Had Better/Would Rather - Unreal Past

- 11 A: I wish I ..... (afford) some new CDs.  
B: Would you like to borrow some of mine?
- 12 A: If only it ..... (stop) raining.  
B: Yes. Then we could go for a walk.
- 13 A: Are you going to Joanne's party on Saturday?  
B: No. I wish I ..... (go), because I'm sure it will be fun.
- 14 A: I wish you ..... (help) with the housework more often.  
B: What would you like me to do?
- 15 A: I'm bored. I wish I ..... (arrange) to go out this evening.  
B: I'm going to the cinema. Why don't you come, too?

15

Look at the pictures and complete the wishes. Also make mixed conditional sentences, as in the example.

1  I should have brought my umbrella.  
I wish I had brought my umbrella. (not / be / so wet)  
If I had brought my umbrella, I wouldn't be so wet now.

2  I should have booked a room.  
I wish ..... (have / somewhere to stay)

3  I shouldn't have eaten so much chocolate.  
I wish ..... (not feel / so ill)

4  I shouldn't have touched the iron.  
I wish ..... (my hand / not hurt so much)

5  I should have got up earlier.  
I wish ..... (not be / late now)

16

Fill in the gaps with an appropriate auxiliary verb.

- 1 I don't know many people, but I wish I ...*did*...  
2 He can't drive, but he wishes he .....  
3 We didn't move house, but we wish we .....  
4 I'm not very wealthy, but I wish I .....  
5 She probably won't help me, but I wish she .....  
6 He hasn't got any pets, but he wishes he .....  
7 They don't go out very often, but they wish they .....  
8 He won't listen to my advice, but I wish he .....

17

Read the text and complete the sentences below using Type 3 Conditionals, as in the example.



The 'Titanic' was a British luxury passenger liner which sank during its maiden voyage from Southampton to New York in 1912. On 14th April, the 'Titanic' hit an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean. Distress signals were sent to the 'Californian', a ship 20 miles away, but their radio operator was off duty and the signals were not received. Some of the passengers got into lifeboats, but, although the 'Titanic' was luxurious, it did not have enough lifeboats for all the passengers on board. As a result, the loss of life was great. Many people died because the sea was very cold. Luckily, another ship, the 'Carpathia', rescued some of the passengers. As a result of this disaster, new rules were made to ensure that sea voyages would be safer in future. It is now believed that the 'Titanic' sank so quickly because it was too large.

- 1 If the ship had not hit an iceberg, ...*It wouldn't have sunk*...  
2 If the 'Californian's' radio operator had been on duty, .....  
3 If the 'Titanic' had had enough lifeboats, .....  
4 If the sea hadn't been so cold, .....  
5 If the 'Carpathia' had not arrived, .....  
6 If the 'Titanic' had not sunk, .....  
7 If the 'Titanic' had not been so big, .....



# Had Better / Would Rather

## ◆ Had better + bare infinitive (= should/ought)

This structure is used to give advice or to say what the best thing to do in a particular situation is.

e.g. You **had/d better** book your flight early.

*I'd better not take out a loan; I won't be able to pay it back.*

**Had better** is more emphatic than **should/ought to**, but it is not as emphatic as **must**.

e.g. You **must** see a lawyer. (strong advice)

You **had better** see a lawyer. (less emphatic than must)

You **should/ought to** see a lawyer. (less emphatic than had better)

## ◆ Would rather (= would prefer to) expresses preference.

When the subject of **would rather** is also the subject of the following verb, we use the following constructions:

### a) would rather + present bare infinitive (present/future)

e.g. I'd rather do my shopping tomorrow.

### b) would rather + perfect bare infinitive (past)

e.g. I'd rather not have gone to the dinner party last night.

### c) would rather + bare infinitive + than (+ bare infinitive)

e.g. I'd rather watch a comedy than (watch) a thriller.

When the subject of **would rather** is different from the subject of the following verb, we use the following constructions:

### a) would rather + past tense (present/future)

e.g. I'd rather Kate stayed with us tonight.

### b) would rather + past perfect (past)

e.g. I'd rather Sam hadn't taken his father's car yesterday.

We can also use **prefer** in the following constructions to express preference:

### a) prefer+ -ing form + to + -ing form (general preference)

e.g. I prefer playing tennis to playing squash.

### b) prefer+ full infinitive + rather than + bare infinitive (general preference)

e.g. I prefer to eat fish rather than (eat) meat.

### c) prefer+ noun+ to + noun (general preference)

e.g. He prefers basketball to football.

### d) would prefer + full infinitive + rather than + bare infinitive (specific preference)

e.g. a) I'd prefer to walk home rather than take the bus.

b) I'd prefer to have juice rather than (have) Coke.

18

Answer the following questions using **would rather** ..... because and your own ideas.

- 1 Your parents have offered to take you to Rome on holiday and your best friend has invited you to join him/her in Majorca. Where would you prefer to go?  
e.g. ...I'd rather go to Majorca because I love being by the sea....
- 2 You have received two invitations. One is for a film première and one is for a rock concert. Which would you rather go to?
- 3 You have recently won the lottery jackpot. Would you rather have all of the money at once, or a set amount every month?
- 4 You need some extra money. Would you rather spend your evenings babysitting or get a paper round in the mornings?
- 5 Your parents have offered to buy you a present. Would you rather have some new clothes or a pair of roller-blades?
- 6 You have lost the watch which your parents bought you and you know they will be angry. Would you rather buy yourself a new watch and pretend nothing has happened, or tell your parents the truth?

19

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

- 1 A: I'm going out in a minute.  
B: So am I, so you'd better ...take... (take) your keys with you.
- 2 A: Do you watch much television?  
B: No. I prefer ..... (read) books to ..... (watch) television.
- 3 A: I didn't enjoy the concert much.  
B: Nor did I! I would rather they ..... (play) more modern music.
- 4 A: Shall we go to that new restaurant this evening?  
B: Good idea. We had better ..... (book) a table.
- 5 A: Shall I tidy your bedroom for you?  
B: I'd rather you ..... (not/ tidy) it. I'll do it later.
- 6 A: Shall we go for a walk this afternoon?  
B: No. I would prefer ..... (stay) here and read a book.
- 7 A: My brother prefers ..... (play) computer games to ..... (do) his homework.  
B: So does mine.
- 8 A: Did you enjoy the play last night?  
B: No. I'd rather ..... (go) to the cinema.
- 9 A: I'd rather you ..... (not/make) so much noise.  
B: Sorry. I'll try to be quiet.
- 10 A: You had better ..... (work) hard at your new job.  
B: I will. I want to make a good impression.

# UNIT 9

## Conditionals - Wishes - Had Better/Would Rather - Unreal Past

- 11 A: Paul has bought Tania a present.  
B: Yes, but we'd better ..... (not/mention) it. It might be a surprise.
- 12 A: Did you enjoy the party last night?  
B: Yes, but I would rather we ..... (stay) a little longer.
- 13 A: Shall we spend the evening together?  
B: Well, actually, I'd prefer ..... (spend) some time alone.
- 14 A: That meal was terrible. I'd rather ..... (eat) at home.  
B: It was very expensive, too.
- 15 A: It's the company's office party tomorrow.  
B: Yes. To be honest, I'd rather ..... (not/go).

### The Unreal Present and Past

The **past simple** can be used to refer to the present (unreal present) when we talk about imaginary, unreal or improbable situations which are contrary to facts in the present.

The **past perfect** can be used to refer to imaginary, unreal or improbable situations which are contrary to facts in the past (unreal past).

The past simple is used with:

- **Type 2 Conditionals**  
e.g. *If he **had** the money, he would buy a new car.*
- **suppose/supposing**  
e.g. ***Suppose/Supposing** he **stood** you up, what would you do?*
- **wish/if only**  
e.g. *I **wish/If only** I **had** a better job.*
- **would rather (present)**  
e.g. *I'd **rather** Nick **drove** me to the station.*
- **as if/as though**  
e.g. *Mary talks **as if/as though** she **knew** everything.*
- **it's (about/high) time**  
e.g. *It's **(about/high) time** you **went** to bed.*

The past perfect is used with:

- **Type 3 Conditionals**  
e.g. *If she **hadn't fallen down** the stairs, she wouldn't have broken her arm.*
- **suppose/supposing**  
e.g. ***Suppose/Supposing** you **had been invited**, would you have gone?*
- **wish/if only**  
e.g. *I **wish/If only** I **hadn't argued** with him.*
- **would rather (past)**  
e.g. *I'd **rather** you **had kept** it a secret.*
- **as if/as though**  
e.g. *He **had never been abroad**, but he spoke about New York **as if/as though** he **had been** there many times.*

20

Underline the correct tense.

- I'd rather you did/had done your homework before you go out.
- Supposing you had heard/had been heard telling me, what would have happened?
- He acted as if he owns/owned the house.
- I wish I went/had gone to the library yesterday.
- I would have made a cake if I know/had known you were coming.
- It's about time we employed/had employed some new staff.
- If she had won/won the competition, she would have had a party.
- I'd rather you didn't interrupt/hadn't interrupted me when I'm talking.
- Suppose you saw/had seen a crime being committed, what would you do?
- If only you told/had told me, I would have understood.
- He would have sent a card if he realised/had realised it was your birthday.
- If you met/had met John now, you wouldn't recognise him.
- It's high time you learnt/had learnt how to drive.
- I'd rather you hadn't misbehaved/didn't misbehave at the party last night.
- They spoke as if they knew/had known each other for years.

21

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form.

- Would you rather ...come... (come) shopping with me or stay at home?
- If only I ..... (not/confide) in her; now everybody knows my problems.
- Amy says she would rather ..... (organise) the event herself.
- I'd rather you ..... (get) a full-time job than a part-time job.
- Supposing I invited you to a party, ..... (you/accept)?
- I wish I ..... (ask) my parents for some advice before I made up my mind.
- Suppose you ..... (meet) a film star, what would you say?
- She didn't understand the question, but she looked as though she ..... (understand) it.
- Liz studied Art at university, but she says she would rather ..... (study) History.
- I wish Alan ..... (not/move) away, as I miss him a lot.
- It seemed as if she ..... (forget) about the meeting.
- If you hadn't left early, you ..... (meet) Tim.

## IN OTHER WORDS

**Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.**

- 1 I don't think it's a good idea to lie to your parents about what happened.  
**were** If I **were** you, I wouldn't lie to my parents about what happened.
- 2 If you sit next to the fireplace, you'll get too hot.  
**else** Don't sit next to the fireplace **or else** you'll get too hot.
- 3 It rained heavily all day, so they didn't go out.  
**for** But **for** the heavy rain, they would have gone out.
- 4 If you don't act quickly, you may find yourself in trouble.  
**unless** You may find yourself in trouble **unless** you act quickly.
- 5 Sam ran out of time; that's why he didn't go shopping.  
**would** If Sam hadn't run out of time, he **would** have gone shopping.
- 6 If Helen gets a grant, she will be able to continue her studies.  
**provided** Helen will be able to continue her studies **provided** she gets a grant.
- 7 Tony wants to buy a new car, but he hasn't got enough money.  
**wishes** Tony **wishes** he had enough money to buy a new car.
- 8 Jack would prefer to learn Italian rather than learn German.  
**rather** Jack **would rather learn** Italian than German.
- 9 Mary regrets not studying hard for her exams.  
**wishes** Mary **wishes** she had studied hard for her exams.
- 10 You should join a gym.  
**better** You **had better join** a gym.
- 11 Why don't you make an effort to improve your life?  
**would** I **wish** you **would make** an effort to improve your life.
- 12 It's a pity I missed your graduation.  
**wish** I **wish** I **hadn't missed** your graduation.

22

**Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.**

- 1 You will be late for school unless you leave now.  
**if** You will be late for school ...*if you don't leave*... now.
- 2 If you touch the iron, you will burn your fingers.  
**else** Don't touch the iron, ..... burn your fingers.
- 3 I don't think it's a good idea to buy that jacket.  
**were** If ....., I wouldn't buy that jacket.
- 4 I want to have a party, but my flat isn't big enough.  
**wish** I ..... big enough for me to have a party.
- 5 You shouldn't go out tonight; you have to go to school tomorrow.  
**better** You ..... out tonight; you have to go to school tomorrow.
- 6 John would prefer to eat pizza rather than chips.  
**rather** John ..... pizza than chips.
- 7 Jane regrets spending all that money on new clothes.  
**wishes** Jane ..... all that money on new clothes.
- 8 It's a pity I didn't make it to your wedding.  
**wish** I ..... it to your wedding.
- 9 Colin wishes he hadn't missed the bus; now he is late for work.  
**missed** If Colin ..... the bus, he wouldn't be late for work.
- 10 If the weather gets better, we'll go on a sailing trip tomorrow.  
**provided** We'll go on a sailing trip, ..... better tomorrow.
- 11 You should write a letter to your pen-friend.  
**better** You ..... to your pen-friend.
- 12 Samantha wants to be a model, but she isn't tall enough.  
**wishes** Samantha ..... to be a model.
- 13 Why don't you wipe your feet when you come back from the park?  
**would** I ..... your feet when you come back from the park.
- 14 If you don't stop being naughty, I will tell the headmaster.  
**else** Stop being naughty, ..... the headmaster.
- 15 Sam would prefer to go out rather than stay at home.  
**rather** Sam ..... than stay at home.
- 16 It's a pity I didn't go to that party.  
**wish** I ..... that party.
- 17 I didn't know your address; that's why I didn't send you a postcard.  
**would** If I had known your address, I ..... you a postcard.
- 18 He wouldn't have finished his report if you hadn't helped him.  
**for** But ..... he wouldn't have finished his report.
- 19 If you exceed the speed limit, you'll have to pay a fine.  
**else** Don't exceed the speed limit, ..... have to pay a fine.
- 20 If you don't practise daily, you will never learn to play the piano.  
**unless** You will never learn to play the piano ..... daily.