

Party regrets and what-ifs

1. Warm-up: Party stories

Discuss these questions with a partner:

- Think about the last party or social event you went to. What was it like?
- Have you ever regretted doing something (or not doing something) at a party?
- What makes a party memorable for you? The music, the people, the food?

2. Party vocabulary

Match the vocabulary on the left with the correct definition on the right.

1. Wallflower	f. A shy person who stands on the side at a party instead of participating.
2. Awkward	d. Uncomfortable or socially clumsy.
3. Make a move	b. To initiate a romantic or social interaction.
4. Designated driver	c. A person who doesn't drink alcohol in order to drive others home safely.
5. Hit it off	a. To get along with someone very well right from the start.

6. Embarrassing

e. Causing someone to feel ashamed or self-conscious.

3. Listening: A conversation about last night

You will hear a conversation between two friends, Anna and Ben, discussing a party from the night before. Listen and fill in the gaps.

Anna: I can't believe I was such a (1) **wallflower** at the party last night. I saw that cute guy from my history class, but I just froze.

Ben: Tom? Yeah, he's a nice guy. Why didn't you talk to him?

Anna: I don't know! I'm so shy. If I weren't so shy, I (2) **would have said** hello. Now I have to face him in class tomorrow, and it'll be so (3) **awkward**.

Ben: I get it. But hey, it's not the end of the world.

Anna: I know, but I keep thinking... if I (4) **had made** a move, we might be planning a coffee date right now.

Ben: Look, if you had talked to him and he wasn't interested, you (5) **would feel** just as bad now.

Anna: Maybe. I just wish I were more outgoing. If I hadn't spent the whole night standing by the snacks, I (6) **wouldn't have** such a stomach ache today, either!

Ben: Ha! True. Well, at least you weren't like Mark. If he (7) **hadn't drunk** so much, he wouldn't be spending his Sunday apologizing to everyone.

Anna: Oof, yeah. If he were more responsible, he (8) **would have been** the **designated driver** like he promised.

4. Grammar focus: Mixed conditionals

Look at these sentences from the dialogue. They mix past conditions with present results, or present conditions with past results. This is called a **mixed conditional**.

Type 1: Past condition → Present result

We use this to talk about how a different action in the past would change the present situation.

Structure: If + past perfect (had + p.p.), ... would + infinitive.

*Example: "If he **hadn't drunk** so much (past), he **wouldn't be** spending his Sunday apologizing (present)."*

Type 2: Present condition → Past result

We use this to talk about how a different quality or state now (a personal trait, a general truth) would have changed a past action.

Structure: If + past simple, ... would have + past participle.

*Example: "If I **weren't** so shy (present characteristic), I **would have said** hello (past action)."*

5. Grammar practice

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets to create **mixed conditional** sentences.

1. If I **had studied** (study) harder for my exam last week, I **would be** (be) on holiday with my friends right now.
2. He **wouldn't have crashed** (not crash) his car yesterday if he **were** (be) a more careful driver.
3. If we **had bought** (buy) that house a few years ago, it **would be** (be) worth a lot of money now.
4. She **would have gone** (go) to the concert last night if she **didn't have** (not have) to work early this morning.
5. If I **spoke** (speak) Spanish, I **would have understood** (understand) what they were saying at the meeting yesterday.
6. You **wouldn't be** (not be) so tired today if you **hadn't stayed up** (not stay up) so late last night.

6. Useful phrases for expressing regrets and speculating

Study these phrases to talk about past events and their consequences.

Expressing regret:

- "I wish I had..." / "I wish I hadn't..."
- "If only I had known..."
- "I really should have..." / "I shouldn't have..."
- "I'm kicking myself for not..."

Speculating about different outcomes:

- "Things would be different now if..."
- "Imagine if I had... I would probably be..."
- "Who knows what would have happened if..."
- "I wonder how my life would be today if I'd..."

7. Speaking: What if...?

Work with a partner. Read the situations below and create a short dialogue for each one. Use at least one **mixed conditional** and one useful phrase from the list above for each situation.

Situation 1: The Job Offer

You didn't accept a job offer in another country five years ago because you are not an adventurous person. Now, you are bored with your current job. Talk to your friend about it.

Example answer:

A: I'm so bored with my job. I'm kicking myself for not taking that job in Spain five years ago.

B: Why didn't you take it again?

A: You know me, I'm not an adventurous person. But **if I had accepted that offer, I would be living a much more exciting life right now.**

Situation 2: The Missed Flight

You missed your flight this morning because you stayed up late watching a series last night. You are now stuck at the airport. You call your boss to explain.

Example answer:

A (You): Hi, it's me. I have some bad news. I missed my flight this morning.

B (Boss): Oh no! What happened?

A (You): Well, I really shouldn't have stayed up so late watching TV. **If I hadn't stayed up so late last night, I wouldn't be stuck at the airport right now.** I am so sorry.

Situation 3: The Investment

Your friend advised you to invest in a tech company last year, but you didn't listen. That company's stock is now very valuable, and your friend is rich. You see your friend at a cafe.

Example answer:

A (You): Wow, nice to see you! That's a very fancy car you're driving.

B (Friend): Thanks! The tech investment paid off big time.

A (You): I bet! If only I had known... You know, **if I weren't so cautious with money, I would have invested when you told me to.**