

If I had known ... I wish I had known ...

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 had known you were in hospital, I would have gone to see you.

Rachel said: If I had known you were in hospital This tells us that she *didn't* know he was in hospital.

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 decided to stay at home 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 photographs. (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 had studied science instead of languages? (you didn't study science)

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

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

D

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

- If I had gone to the party last night, I would be tired now. (I am not tired now – *present*)
- If I had 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)

40.1 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 I didn't know you were in hospital. If I'd known (I / know), I would have gone (I / go) to see you.
- 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.
- 3 I'm glad that you reminded me about Amanda's birthday. _____ (I / forget) if _____ (you / not / remind) me.
- 4 Unfortunately I forgot my address book when I went on holiday. If _____ (I / have) your address, _____ (I / send) you a postcard.
- 5 A: How was your holiday? Did you have a nice time?
B: It was OK, but _____ (we / enjoy) it more if _____ (the weather / be) nicer.
- 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 _____
- 3 I didn't know that Joe had to get up early, so I didn't wake him up.
If I _____
- 4 I was able to buy the car only because Jane lent me the money.

- 5 Karen wasn't injured in the crash because she was wearing a seat belt.

- 6 You didn't have any breakfast – that's why you're hungry now.

- 7 I didn't get a taxi because I didn't have any 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 newspaper. 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 photographs, but you didn't bring your camera.
You say: _____
- 6 You have some unexpected guests. They didn't phone first to say they were coming. You are very busy and you are not prepared for them.
You say (to yourself): _____