

High-Intermediate 2
Unit 2 Grammar
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Conditional Sentences: Type II

In the **if-clause** of conditional sentences type II, we use the **past tense** (the simple past tense or the past progressive tense).

In the **main clause** of conditional sentences type II, we use “**would/could/might**” followed by the simple form of the verb.

Conditional sentences type II are **about unreal conditions at the moment**. In other words, they are about our dreams and wishes or improbable situations which seem to be unachievable and impossible under the present conditions.

Examples:

If I had 10 million dollars, I could buy a house in New York City.

- I don't have 10 million dollars.
- I can't buy a house in New York City.

If you didn't have a car, you couldn't go on trip.

- You have a car.
- You can go on a trip.

If you studied today, you would pass tomorrow.

- You don't study today.
- You won't pass tomorrow.

The Comparison of Type I & II:

Examples:

If I become rich, I will help the poor. (Type I)

- ✚ I think it is possible for me to become rich and help the poor.

If I became rich, I would help the poor. (Type II)

- ✚ I think it is impossible for me to become rich and help the poor.

Wishes about the Present:

Subject + wish + that-clause

We use the past tense in the that-clause, but our wish is not about the past. It is about the present.

Examples:

I wish (that) I were a bird.

I wish (that) I lived in New York City.

Tom wishes (that) he had a Porsche.

They wish (that) their exam weren't so hard.

Point:

If only = I wish

Examples:

If only I were a billionaire.

If only I lived in a luxurious penthouse.

The Verb “to be” in Wishes:

If the wish is temporarily unachievable and impossible, we use the verb “to be” as we normally do. But if the wish is totally improbable, we should use “were” for all subjects and we shouldn't use “was”.

Examples:

I wish I was at home now.

- This sentence is by a student at school.
- The condition is temporarily improbable.

I wish I were at home now.

- This sentence is by a man in prison.
- This condition is totally improbable.

Making Complaints:

We can use “would” and the simple form of the verb in the that-clause following “wish” to make a complaint.

Examples:

I wish you wouldn't smoke in here. = Please don't smoke in here.

I wish you would keep quiet for a minute. = Please keep quiet for a minute.

Comparison of Hope and Wish:

What we hope is achievable, but we wish is unachievable.

Examples:

*I hope that I **can** gain a lot of profit.* ⇒ I believe it is possible for me to gain a lot of profit.

*I wish that I **could** gain a lot of profit.* ⇒ I believe it is impossible for me to gain a lot of profit.

*I hope that you **will** pass the final.* ⇒ I believe it is possible for you to pass the final exam.

*I wish that you **would** pass the final.* ⇒ I believe you can't pass the final exam.

Wish + Infinitive

infinitive = to + Simple Form of the Verb

wish to do something = would like to do something

Example:

I wish to talk to you after the meeting.

The manager of the company wishes to make a speech today.

Source:

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