Grammar Mixed conditionals



Use

 We use mixed conditional sentences when the if clause and the result clause refer to different times.

If I hadn't bought those clothes yesterday, **I would have** enough money to go out tonight.

If I were a more sensible person,
I wouldn't have spent all my money.



We use I wish and If only to say that we regret something that happened in the past.
 I wish I hadn't spent so much. If only I'd kept some of my money!

Form

- We form **mixed conditional sentences** with a mixture of second and third conditionals.
- If we are talking about an **imagined situation in the present with a past result**, we use: If clause (If + past simple) + result clause (would have + past participle)
- If we are talking about an **imagined situation in the past with a present result**, we use: If clause (If + past perfect) + result clause (would + verb)

Mixed conditionals					
If clause		result clause			
If	past simple	would have	past participle		
If	I spoke Spanish,	they would have	offered	me the job.	
If	past perfect	would	verb		
If	you'd gone to bed earlier,	you wouldn't	feel	so tired today.	

 We form sentences with *I wish* and *If only* like this:

I wish / If only + past perfect.

I wish and If only		
I wish / If only	past perfect	
I wish	I hadn't left my phone at home.	
If only		

Tip

We can use the modal verbs *might* or *could* instead of *would* in conditional sentences.

We use *might* if we are not sure of the result:

If I liked science fiction, I **might** have enjoyed that film.

We use *could* to say that something would be possible:

If we'd left earlier, we **could** be at the stadium by now.