



## Presentation

Use *if* + past perfect to talk about situations that did not happen in the past. The situation described is often the opposite of what really happened. Use *would have* + past participle to talk about the hypothetical past consequences of the imagined past situation:

imagined past situation	imagined past result
<i>if</i> + past perfect <b>If the driver hadn't seen the dog in time,</b>	<i>would have</i> + past participle <b>he'd have hit it.</b>

Note: this is often referred to as the third conditional.

The contracted form for both *had* and *would* is 'd:  
*If I'd told you, you'd have told the police.*

Don't confuse the two forms. *Had* is followed by a past participle: *If I'd told you, ... = If I had told you, ...*

*Would* is followed by *have* + past participle: *You'd have told the police. = You would have told the police.*

### **would have, could have, might have**

Use *would have* to describe the logical consequence of a hypothetical situation: *He would definitely have hit the dog (if he hadn't seen it in time).*

Use *could have* or *might have* to speculate on one of two or more possible consequences of a hypothetical past situation: *If the driver hadn't stopped in time, it could/might have got killed!* (= This is one possible hypothetical consequence.)

**TIP** You can use *couldn't have* to talk about a lack of ability in the past. In this case you cannot use *might have*, nor can you use an *if* clause: *The driver couldn't have reacted any quicker.* (= it was physically impossible)

### **Real or imaginary?**

When you want to talk about a real past situation, use *if* + past simple:

*If you knew the dog wasn't on the lead, why didn't you warn the driver?*

*If you knew* = you did know.

Compare it with a sentence using *if* + past perfect:

*If I'd known the dog wasn't on the lead, I would have warned the driver.*

*If I'd known* = I didn't know.

You often use *if* + a real past situation to express criticism of a past action.

### **should have, ought to have**

Use *should have* and *ought to have* to talk about the correct or morally right thing to do in a past situation. You often use these forms to criticise past actions:

*If they couldn't control the dog, it shouldn't (or ought not to) have been off the lead.*

*If you knew the dog was loose, you ought to have (or should have) warned the driver.*

**1 Choose the correct options.**

- 1 If I'd *arrive / arrived* on time, I'd *have / had* spoken to him before he left.
- 2 If my phone *hadn't / wouldn't have* run out of battery, I'd *called / have called* you.
- 3 I *hadn't arrived / wouldn't have arrived* late if my car *hadn't / wouldn't have* broken down.
- 4 They'd never *found out / have found out*, if he *hadn't / wouldn't have* said something.
- 5 I think we *could have / had* won, if we'd *try / tried* harder.
- 6 If you'd really *want / wanted* to come, you'd *found / have found* a way.

**2 Complete the sentences about the imagined past situations.**

- 1 The teacher was very angry with him because he hadn't done his homework.  
The teacher wouldn't have been so angry with him if he had done his homework.
- 2 I was very tired this morning because I went to bed late last night.  
If I ..... late last night, I ..... so tired this morning.
- 3 You didn't tell me it was her birthday, so I didn't bring her a present.  
If you ..... her birthday, I ..... a present for her.
- 4 I passed the exam because you helped me.  
I ..... the exam if you ..... me.
- 5 I didn't see you, so I didn't say hello.  
I ..... hello if ..... you.
- 6 I didn't miss my train because it was delayed.  
If the train ..... on time, I ..... it.

**3 Complete the sentences using the verbs in the boxes.**

might have    would have    should have
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- 1 That was a very silly thing to do! You really ..... been more careful.
- 2 If I'd paid more attention, I ..... learnt something new.
- 3 If she'd won the competition, she ..... been the first woman to do so.

could have    shouldn't have    wouldn't have
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- 4 If you'd paid more attention, you ..... got lost.
- 5 If you didn't know what you were doing, you ..... been on the boat!
- 6 That was very irresponsible. Someone ..... got hurt.

**4 Write the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.**

A: You missed a good concert last night. You really should have been there.

B: But I was!

A: If you <sup>1</sup> ..... (be) there, why <sup>2</sup> ..... (I/not/see) you?

B: I was in the gallery. If you <sup>3</sup> ..... (look) up, you <sup>4</sup> ..... (see) me. I waved at you, but you didn't wave back.

A: If I <sup>5</sup> ..... (not wave) back, it <sup>6</sup> ..... (be) because I couldn't see you! Why didn't you text me or something? If you <sup>7</sup> ..... (send) a text, we <sup>8</sup> ..... (go) out for a drink or something.

B: I tried, but I didn't have any credit on my phone. And anyway, I had to go home early.