

USING WISH; USING IF

PowerPoint supplement to Chapter 16,
Fundamentals of English Grammar, 2nd Ed.

Wishes About True Situations

- ***about the present:*** express how you want a present, real situation to be different than it actually is.
- ***about the past:*** express how you want a past, real situation to have been different than it was.

WISH about the present

- **express how you want a present, real situation to be different than it actually is.**

The final exam for this class could be difficult and I'm not prepared for it. I don't want to take the final exam, but I have to.

I wish that I didn't have to take the final exam.

Do you have to?

YES!

Do you want to?

NO!

WISH about the past

- express how you want a past, real situation to have been different than it was.

My stomach is growling – I'm so hungry. I didn't eat breakfast before I left home this morning.

I wish that I had eaten breakfast this morning.

Did you eat breakfast this morning?

NO!

Do you now think that you should have eaten breakfast this morning?

YES!

(16.1) Wishes about present, true situations use a past verb form

- **True, present situation that I'd like to change: I can't speak Korean.**
- I wish I **could speak** Korean.
- **True, present situation that I'd like to change: I have to give a presentation in class tomorrow.**
- I wish I **didn't have to give** a presentation in class tomorrow.
- **True, present situation that I'd like to change: Nebraska winters are very cold.**
- I wish Nebraska winters **weren't** very cold.
- **True, present situation that I'd like to change: My boss is angry at me for being late.**
- I wish my boss **weren't** angry at me for being late.

*(*BE is always WERE in simple past*)*

(16.2) Wishes about past, true situations use past perfect verbs

- **True, past situation that I'd like to change: I left my car's headlights on while I was in class.**
- I wish I **hadn't left** my headlights on while I was in class.
- **True, past situation that I'd like to change: I didn't call my mom on her birthday.**
- I wish I **had called** my mom on her birthday.
- **True, past situation that he'd like to change: Chuoy failed the final exam.**
- Chuoy wishes he **hadn't failed** the final exam.
- **True, past situation that she'd like to change: Jebba's classes started at 8 am everyday last quarter.**
- She wishes her classes **hadn't started** at 8 am everyday.

(16.3) IF with “contrary to fact” (opposite of true) situations in the present to show results

- True Situation: I'm not rich.
- Wish: I wish I were rich.
- If (contrary to fact): If I **were** rich, I **would take** a trip around the world.

- True Situation: MCC classes are not free.
- Wish: Students wish that MCC classes were free.
- If (contrary to fact): If MCC classes **were** free, students **could quit** their jobs.

(16.3) IF with “contrary to fact” (opposite of true) situations in the present to show results

- True Situation: We don't live near the ocean.
- Wish: I wish we lived near the ocean.
- If (contrary to fact): If we **lived** near the ocean, we **could** have class at the beach.

- True Situation: This class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- I wish this class met on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- If this class met on Mondays and Wednesdays, I **could get** a ride with my neighbor.

(16.4) IF with TRUE situations in the present / future

- **True situation: If you don't have a pencil, I will lend you one.**
- (Maybe you need a pencil (I don't know). If that is true, I will or can lend you one.)
- **Contrary-to-fact: If you didn't have a pencil, I would lend you one.**
- (In truth, you have a pencil and don't need me to lend you one, but imagine you didn't have a pencil: in that case, I would lend you mine.)

Verb Form Usage Summary (present)

SITUATION	IF- CLAUSE	RESULT CLAUSE
TRUE	Simple present	Will / can + simple form
CONTRARY TO FACT	Simple past	Would / could + simple form

(16.5) IF with “Contrary-to-Fact” situations in the past

- *If Clause: past perfect, Result clause: would have / could have + past participle*
- *True Situation: I didn't finish my homework last night.*
- *Wish: I wish I had finished my homework last night.*
- *If: If I **had finished** my homework last night, I **would have been** prepared for the quiz in class today.*
- *Did I finish my homework last night? NO!*
- *Was there a quiz in class today? YES!*
- *Was I prepared for it? NO!*

(16.5) IF with “Contrary-to-Fact” situations in the past

- True Situation: My brother left his glasses at my house.
- Wish: My brother wishes he hadn't left his glasses at my house.
- If: If my brother **hadn't left** his glasses at my house, he **wouldn't have gone** in the wrong apartment.
- *Did my brother leave his glasses at my house? YES! Did he go into the wrong apartment? YES! Would he have gone in the wrong apartment if he hadn't left his glasses at my house? NO!*

(16.5)IF with “Contrary-to-Fact” situations in the past

- Write your own example:
 - True Situation in the Past: _____
 - Wish: _____
 - If: _____
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- Share your sentences with your neighbor.

Summary: verb forms with IF

Situation	If clause	Result clause	Examples
TRUE IN THE PRESENT	Simple present	Will / can + simple form	
CONTRARY TO FACT IN THE PRESENT	Simple past	Would / could + simple form	
CONTRARY TO FACT IN THE PAST	Past perfect	Would have / could have + past participle	