



## UNIT 23.

# I WISH, IF ONLY, WOULD RATHER, I'D BETTER, IT'S (HIGH) TIME

Adapted from

-Murphy, R. (2004). *English Grammar in Use with Answers. A Self-study Reference and Practice Book for Intermediate Students of English.* (3rd revised edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

-Vince, M. (2009). *First Certificate Language Practice: English Grammar and Vocabulary. With Key* (4th ed.). Oxford: MacMillan



## 2.1. WISHES ABOUT PRESENT STATES OR SITUATIONS:

- Wish + simple past.
- The time referred to is **imaginary or “unreal” present**.
  - *I wish I **knew** the answer to this question. Then I'd be able to help you.*
    - *(In this case, I **do not know** the answer).*
  - *I wish I **didn't have** so much work to do.*



## 2.2. WISHES ABOUT PAST EVENTS

- Wish + past perfect.
- The time referred to is **past time**.
  - *I wish I **had known** the answer to this question. Then I wouldn't have lost face in front of everybody.*
    - *(In this case, I **didn't know** the answer).*
  - *I wish I **had gone** to your party last week.*



● What's the time period in the following sentences?:

- *I wish I **could** drive.*
- *I wish my cousin **could** meet me next week.*
- *I wish I **didn't have to** get up early tomorrow.*



## 2.3. WISHES ABOUT ABILITIES AND FUTURE EVENTS: *COULD* AND *HAVE TO*

- Wishes with *could*: **ability** or **future** time.
- Wishes with *have to* can also refer to **future** time.
  - *I wish I **could** drive. (Ability).*
  - *I wish my cousin **could** meet me next week. (Future time).*
  - *I wish I **didn't have to** get up early tomorrow. (Future time).*



- **What's the feeling of the speaker towards Sean in the following sentence?:**

***I wish Sean **wouldn't** chew gum all the time.***



## 2.4. WISHES ABOUT FUTURE EVENTS: *WOULD* (ANNOYING HABITS)

- Wish + would
- Usually: A **complaint about a bad habit** or a wish which refers to a **specific action which you would like to happen**:
  - *I wish Sean **wouldn't** chew gum all the time.*
  - *I wish the police **would** do something about the botellón under my house!*



- You can also use **IF ONLY** instead of *I wish* to make **emphatic wishes**:
  - *If only I knew the answer to this question!*
  - *If only I had known the answer to this question!*
  - *If only I had gone to your party last week!*
- In speech, **only** is often **heavily stressed**.





### 3. I'D RATHER

- What does the *d* stand for? *Would*
- Structure:

If the subject is different in both clauses:

**I'D RATHER + SUBJECT + PAST SIMPLE**

(either + or -).

*I'd rather you bought* salmon instead of cod.

*I'd rather you didn't tell* Joanne about this.

If the subject is the same in both clauses:

**I'D RATHER + INFINITIVE**

(either + or -).

It's so cold that *I'd rather stay* indoors.

It's such a beautiful day that *I'd rather not stay* indoors.

- Meaning: similar to Conditional 2.
  - *I'd rather you didn't tell Joanne about this.*
  - *If you didn't tell Joanne about this, it would be better.*



## 4) I'D BETTER DO / YOU'D BETTER DO

- What does the **d** stand for?
- **Had** is a past form but the meaning **is present or future**, not past.
- **I'd better do something** = it is advisable to do it. If I don't, there will be a problem or a danger:
  - *I have to meet Diane in ten minutes. I'd better go now or I'll be late.*
  - *Shall I take an umbrella? Yes, you'd better.*
- The negative is **I'd better not do**:
  - *Are you going out tonight?*
  - *I'd better not. I've got a lot of work to do.*
- You can use **had better** when you warn somebody that they must do something:
  - *You'd better be on time. /You'd better not be late. (or you'll miss the plane).*



## 5) IT'S (HIGH) TIME

- ***It's (high) time we went home.***  
Meaning: similar to second conditional.  
*If we went home, it would be better.*
- ***High*** can be added for extra emphasis.
- ***It's time to start work. (A simple statement of fact)***
- ***It's time you started work! (You are being lazy and not working)***