UNIT 23.
I WISH, IF ONLY, WOULD RATHER, I’D BETTER, IT’S (HIGH) TIME

Adapted from
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)*