

3 If It Hadn't Happened



1 Listen and Discuss



1. Look at the pictures and write as many words as you can think of for each.
2. Read each paragraph and underline the words that name something in the picture.

Looking Back

Inventions and Discoveries That Changed History

We often wonder if things might or could have been different. Would the world be a better place? What are the advantages or disadvantages of different inventions?



The Wheel ▲

If the Sumerians hadn't invented the wheel in 5000 B.C.E., they couldn't have moved heavy loads. Six thousand years later, the Mayans and Incans in the Americas used the round shape in their architecture, but they had no wheels.



Airplanes ▲

If the Wright brothers hadn't invented the first successful airplane, people might still be traveling long distances on ships, and there wouldn't be as much contact among people on different continents. The Wright brothers first flew in an engine-propelled plane in 1903.



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Oil ▲

If people hadn't discovered a lot of sources of oil, cars that run on gasoline wouldn't have become so common. The first commercial oil well drilled in North America was in Oil Springs, Ontario, Canada in 1858.

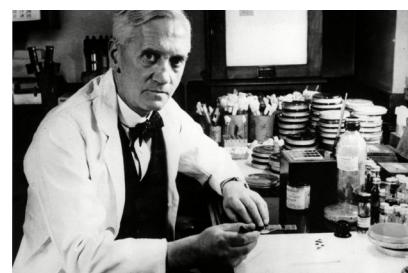
Computers ▶

If we didn't have computers, a lot of work would still be done with paper and pencil, and people in their homes wouldn't be able to be in contact with the entire world. The first PC was introduced by IBM in 1981.



Electricity ▲

If electricity hadn't been discovered, people would probably still be using candles or gaslights. Thomas Edison developed the first incandescent electric light bulb in 1879.



Penicillin ▲

If Dr. Alexander Fleming hadn't discovered penicillin in 1928, millions of people would have died from infections. However, the widespread use of penicillin as an antibiotic did not begin until the 1940s, during World War II.



Life's Regrets

At one time or another, we all look back and wish we had done things differently in our lives. The following are some typical situations. Mark the ones you've said or done. Discuss with a partner.

1. If I'd studied harder, I would have passed that test.
2. I should have said what I thought about her hairstyle, but I didn't want to hurt her feelings.
3. I should have bought that thing last year; now prices have gone up.
4. If I had been more careful, I would have avoided the accident.
5. I should have told the security guard that I saw someone breaking the lock.
6. If I'd known the trip was going to take so long, I would have taken another route.
7. Other after-thoughts? _____

I wish I'd been a better student.
I should have listened to my mother and gone to college.
I could have had an office job.



Quick Check ✓

A. Vocabulary. Match to form new words and expressions.

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| 1. oil ____ | a. guard |
| 2. heavy ____ | b. style |
| 3. hair ____ | c. load |
| 4. electric ____ | d. bulb |
| 5. security ____ | e. well |

B. Comprehension. Answer **true** or **false**.

1. ____ The Sumerians couldn't have carried heavy loads without the wheel.
2. ____ If it weren't for Fleming, many people would have died from infections.
3. ____ If it hadn't been for candles, there wouldn't be any electricity.
4. ____ People would still be traveling on ships if it weren't for airplanes.
5. ____ The man who is unloading the truck should have studied harder.

2 Pair Work

A. Ask and answer.

- What is your biggest regret?
I should have been a more serious student.
- What would have happened if the Sumerians hadn't invented the wheel?
They wouldn't have been able to move heavy loads.
- What would you have done if you'd seen the thief?
I would have called the police immediately.

B. If you could go back and do things over, what mistakes would you try to avoid? Write down a list and compare with a partner.

3 If It Hadn't Happened

3 Grammar



Should Have + Past Participle

Use *should have* + past participle to talk about regrets. Use this form to talk about things you wish you had done or hadn't done.

If I **should have said** I was sorry. (... but I didn't say I was sorry)

If I **shouldn't have done** that. (... but I did that)

Conditional Sentences: Hypothetical Situations in the Past

Use *if* + past perfect + *would have* + past participle to talk about things that didn't happen in the past and had a result in the past or to talk about things you would have done differently.

If I **hadn't found** my book, I **would have been** in trouble. (I found my book, so I wasn't in trouble.)

If I **had studied** harder, I **would have passed** the exam. (I didn't study hard, so I didn't pass the exam.)

Use *if* + past perfect + *would* + (not) base verb/be + -ing to talk about things that didn't happen in the past and have a result in the present.

If I **hadn't learned** English, I **wouldn't understand** you. (I learned English, so I understand you.)

If we **had won**, we **would be celebrating**. (We didn't win, so we aren't celebrating.)

Note: *I'd* = *I* + *had* or *I* + *would*

If I'd (= I had) **been** more careful, I'd (= I would) **have avoided** the accident.

If with Could and Might

Use *if* and *could/might* + past perfect to talk about possibilities and missed opportunities.

If I had gotten a job last summer, I **could have saved** more money.

If she had left work earlier, she **might have avoided** traffic.

A. Read the situations, and make sentences using **should have/shouldn't have**.

1. Jan lent April some money, but she never paid her back.
2. Brad forgot his key, so he broke the window to get into the house.
3. Rita didn't feel well, but she didn't want to go to the doctor.
4. Emilio was upset because they didn't ask him to go out with them.
5. We went to Gino's Restaurant, but the food wasn't good.
6. Mr. Johnson missed a really important meeting last night.



C. Match the two parts of the sentences.

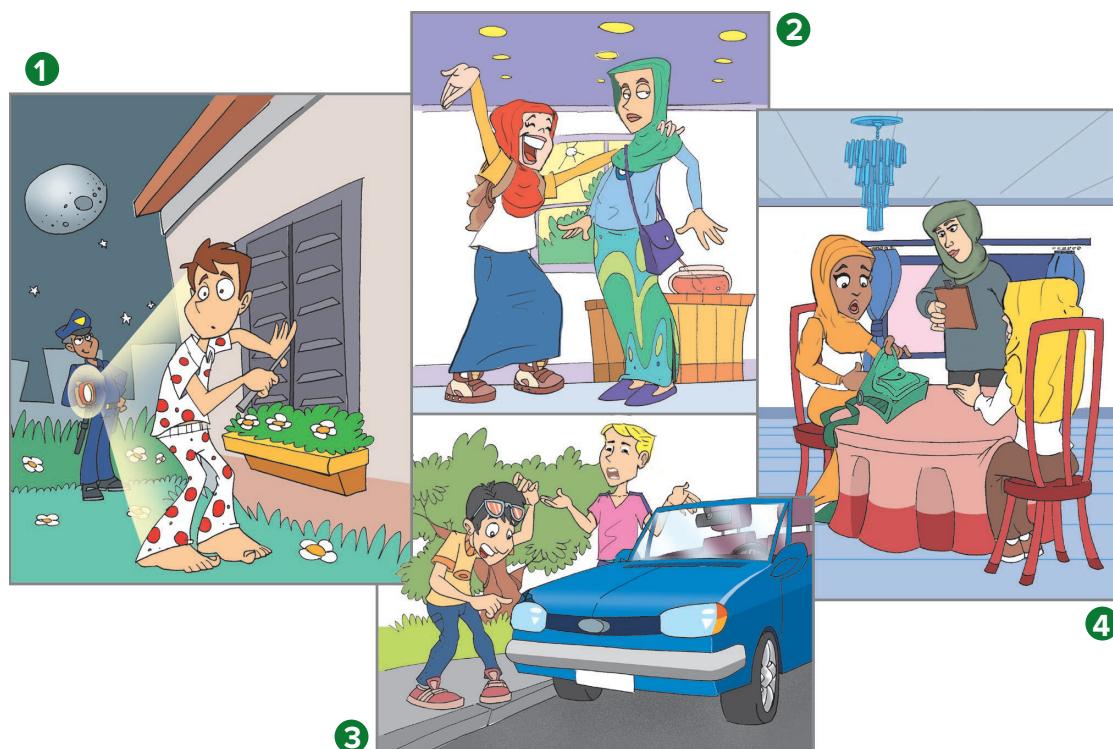
1. If I had known it was going to rain, ____
2. If they had asked me for advice, ____
3. If I had had enough money, ____
4. If you had been home, ____
5. If they had told the truth, ____
6. If I hadn't passed the test, ____
7. If the referee hadn't made a bad call, ____

- a. I would have told them not to buy that TV set.
- b. they wouldn't be in so much trouble now.
- c. their team wouldn't have won the game.
- d. I would be taking it again.
- e. I would have taken an umbrella.
- f. I would have visited you.
- g. I would have bought a plane ticket.

D. Now use the first part of the sentences in exercise C and add your own endings.

Compare your answers with a partner.

E. Work with a partner. What **would**, **could**, or **might** you have said or done in the following situations? Compare your ideas with other pairs.



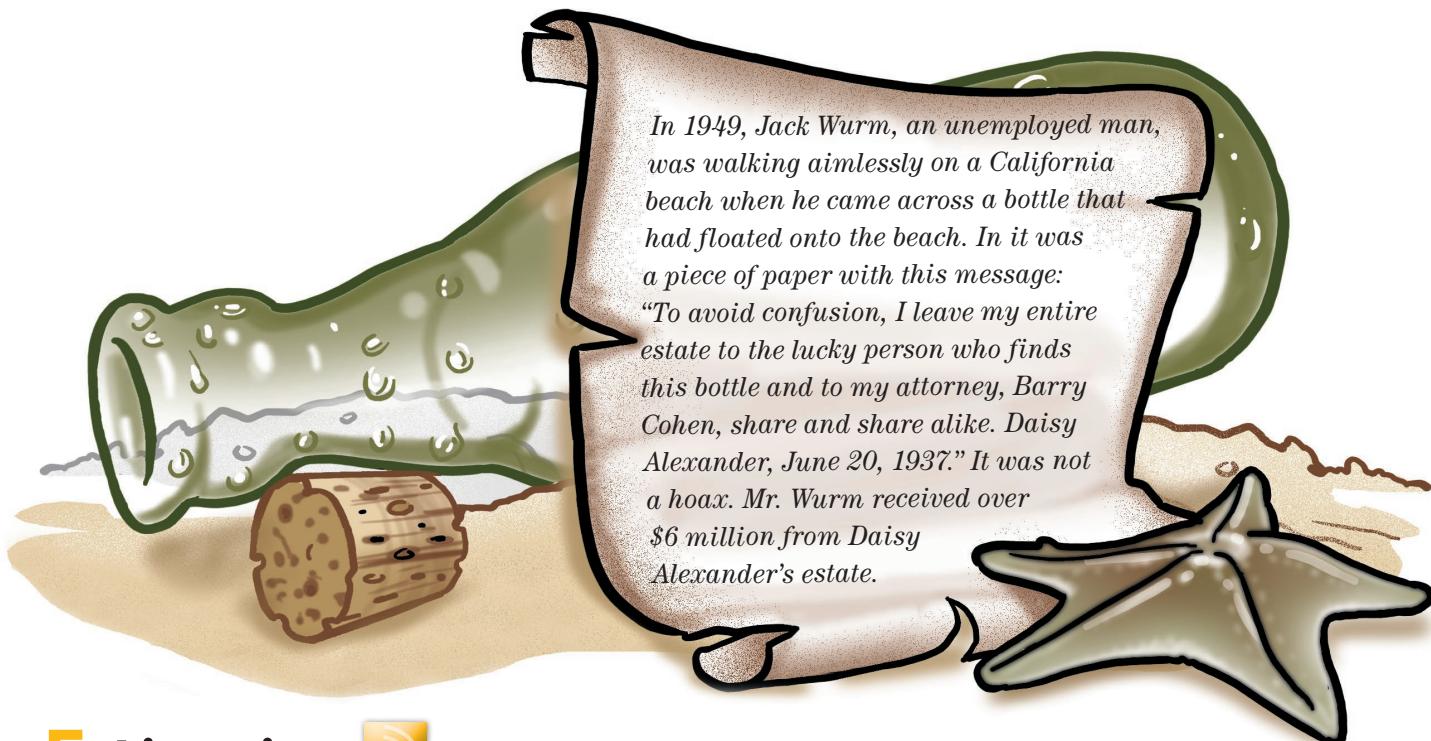
1. It was late at night when Ken remembered he hadn't taken the garbage out. He was already in his pajamas, but he wasn't going to get dressed again just for that. So he went outside quickly, threw the bags into the trash can, and rushed back to the house. When he got to the front door, he realized he had locked himself out. He was busy trying to break into the house when a police officer saw him.
2. You saw an old friend at the airport that you hadn't seen in years. You went up to him or her, greeted the person, and started talking about old times. Suddenly you realized that you had made a mistake.
3. Salim borrowed his friend's car and dented it. He returned it, but he didn't say anything about it. The following day, when they went out, his friend noticed the dent and thought that someone in the parking lot had bumped into his car.
4. It was a special occasion, and you wanted to celebrate. You invited a friend to go out to a fancy restaurant. The meal was wonderful, and you enjoyed the evening. When the waiter brought the check, you realized you had forgotten your wallet at home.



3 If It Hadn't Happened

4 Language in Context

The following talks about a message that was found in a bottle. Imagine you found the message. Discuss with a partner what you would have thought if you had found the bottle and what you would have done with the money.



5 Listening

Listen to the people on the radio show, and complete the chart.

Name	Regret	Reason
J. Springfield		
Saeed		

6 Pronunciation

- A. Listen. Note the reduction of **could have**, **should have**, and **would have**. Then practice.

I **could have** traveled.

He **should have** studied harder.

He **would have** been really happy.



- B. Find and underline examples of **could have**, **should have**, and **would have** in **Life's Regrets** on page 35.

7 About You

In pairs, ask the questions and have your friend answer. Then switch roles.

- What mistakes have you made in your life?
- What things do you regret having done in your life? What do you regret not having done?
- Talk about the best or worst thing that has ever happened to you.
- Have you ever been in an embarrassing situation or a predicament? Talk about it.

8 Conversation



Read the conversation. Find and underline examples of **could have**, **should have**, and **would have**. Practice reading the conversation in pairs.

Faisal: So do you have any regrets about things in your life?

Ibrahim: You mean, things I should or shouldn't have done? Yeah. I guess there are a few. How about you?

Faisal: I wish I had done things differently. I missed some good opportunities because I was too immature. I should have listened to my parents. They wanted me to go to college, and I actually had the grades, but I wanted to go get a job and **go out into the world**.

Ibrahim: Well, you did very well for yourself. You have your own business, and you don't have a boss **breathing down your neck**.

Faisal: But I have lots of responsibilities. I wish I'd taken a course in business management. Now I have to employ someone to do the work I could be doing.

Ibrahim: Well, it's never too late. You can still go back to school. **As for me**, I got my master's degree, and **I had my mind set on** a career. But then I got married and had children.

Faisal: So you had to choose between the job and family?

Ibrahim: No, I work hard and I am able to take care of my family.



Real Talk

You mean = an expression used to confirm what someone else has said

go out into the world = start to be on one's own and independent

breathing down someone's neck = constantly checking

As for (me) = an expression used to introduce a new subject/topic

have one's mind set on something = be firmly decided

About the Conversation

1. List Faisal's regrets.

2. In your own words, write about Ibrahim's life.

Your Turn

Role-play with a partner. Pretend you are talking to Faisal or Ibrahim. Talk about the things you would have done differently.



9 Reading



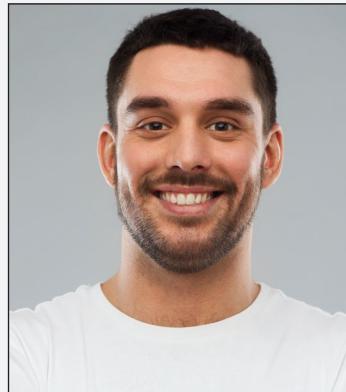
Before Reading

1. Do you ever read advice columns in newspapers and magazines?
2. What kind of help do they give?

PAGE 28

THE DAILY READING JOURNAL

TUESDAY



MARIO'S

ADVICE COLUMN

Dear Mario,

I am writing to tell you a story. It's too late for you to tell me what to do now, but maybe you could tell me what I should have done. Your advice might be useful to others in similar situations.

My best friend borrowed some money from me when we were out shopping at the mall, two weeks ago. I was happy to let him have it, as I had saved my allowance over a few weeks and had more than I needed. He wanted to buy a DVD. Then later I loaned

him some more money because we decided to eat at a pizza restaurant. The total, including the DVD, came to \$25. I don't mind helping out a friend, if I can, so I didn't think much of it.

Last week, we were at the mall and I needed to buy some shoes. They were rather expensive and I asked him if he could give me some of the money I had loaned him. He gave me a very funny look, threw a twenty-dollar bill at me, and walked away.

I was really upset. So, I decided to call him when

I got back. He told me that he never wanted to have anything to do with me again. He said I had embarrassed him at the shop and that I shouldn't have asked him for the money in public. He thought I had done it on purpose because I didn't trust him.

I am really devastated. I've lost my best friend over \$25. What do you think I should have done? Should I have just not said anything? Would that have been the right thing to do?

-A Confused Friend



MARIO'S

Dear Mario,
I'm a limo driver, and people leave all kinds of things in my limousine—scarves, packages, and even shoes. Last Saturday night I picked up this wealthy man at his hotel and drove him to a prestigious charity awards ceremony. The man must have been a millionaire, judging by the way he was dressed. The next day, when I was cleaning the inside of the car, I noticed something shining.

The man's gold and diamond pocket watch must have fallen out of his pocket, and it slipped behind the seat.

So I called the hotel where the man was staying, explained what had happened, and arranged to return the watch. The man was extremely grateful. He told me that it was a valuable family heirloom, given to him by his grandfather, and he went on to praise my honesty. Then he opened his wallet,

ADVICE COLUMN

took out a ten-dollar bill, and gave it to me. I refused, but he insisted. Ten bucks! Can you believe it?

I should have kept the watch. Since then I've been thinking of what I could have done with the money. I could have bought my own limousine or started my own business.

Did I do the right thing?

—Honest But
Wondering Why

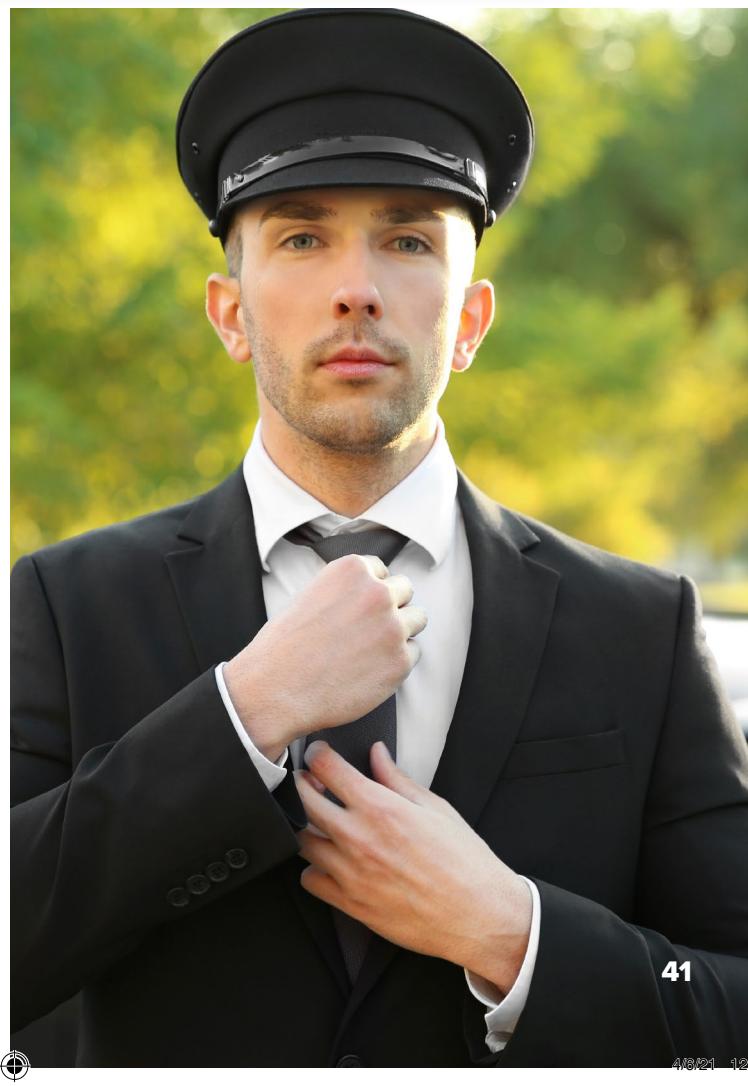
After Reading

Answer the questions about the letters.

1. What happened at the mall two weeks ago?
2. What does the letter writer wish he hadn't done?
3. What did the limo driver find?
4. What did he do?
5. What does the limo driver think he should have done?

Discussion

1. What should the writer's friend have done?
2. What should the limo passenger have done?
3. Discuss the most common problems that people write about to advice columns or to help sites on the Internet.
4. Discuss whether advice from advice columns is really helpful or not.



3 If It Hadn't Happened



10 Writing



- A. 1. Do you like sharing things with your friends? Why? Why not?
2. Read the advice column and answer the questions.
 - Why was Sabah sad?
 - What happened with her friend? Why?
 - What is the column writer's advice?
3. Do you agree with the column writer? Why? Why not?
4. What would you have done if your friend had wanted to borrow something new that belonged to you?



Ask Mariam

Friendship is more important

Dear Sabah,

I am sorry you feel so sad about falling out with your best friend. I understand that she wanted to borrow your new bag before you had the chance to use it yourself. But as you say, she was invited to a wedding and she could not buy a new bag.

I understand that it is difficult, maybe even unfair, to let someone else use something that you have just bought or been given. But surely, friendship is more important, even if it requires some sacrifices. So I am afraid I will agree with what you think, you should have let her borrow the bag. She would have been happy and grateful to you and you would still be on good terms with your friend.

You say you do not like sharing your things with people because they might damage them. You could have asked her to be careful with your bag. The point is, however, to put things into perspective. What is more valuable to you, your friend or your new bag?

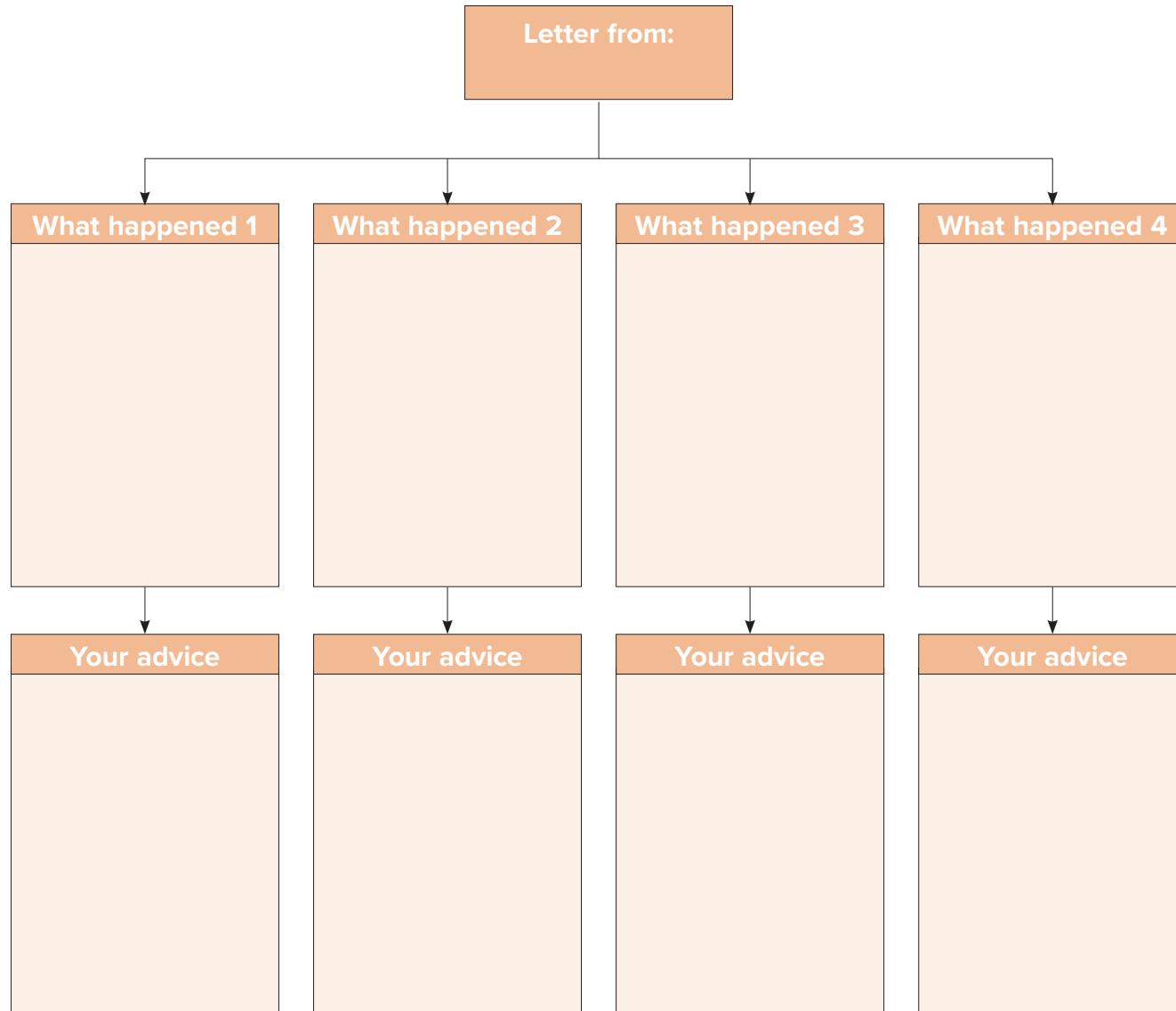
I would call and say I am sorry. I am sure she will understand and if she has not already been to the wedding, offer her the bag. You will both be happier.

I hope it all works out.

—Mariam

5. Read the advice again. Notice the first part of each paragraph. Why do you think the writer has chosen to address the issue in this manner? What is the effect? Is the letter reprimanding or friendly? How would you feel if you were Sabah?

- B.**
- 1.** Choose one of the letters in the unit to write an answer to.
 - 2.** Read the letter again and make notes in the organizer. Include notes with our own advice.
 - 3.** Be the advice column writer and write the answer.
 - 4.** Exchange letters in class.



Writing Corner

When you write a letter of advice:

- Get all the facts and refer to them/summarize them in your letter
- Think about different viewpoints/sides
- Do not be judgmental or patronizing
- Be understanding but do not lie
- Suggest rather than tell people what to do



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11 Form, Meaning and Function



Present Perfect Tense versus Simple Past

Use the present perfect to talk about an action that happened in the past when the exact time isn't known or important. Use the past tense when the exact time is given.

A: Have they **discovered** life on another planet yet?
B: Yes, they **have**.

A: When **did** IBM introduce the first PC?
B: It **was** introduced in 1981.

Time Expressions: Ago, For and Since

Use the simple past tense when the exact time is given: *yesterday, two days ago, last week/month/year*. Use the present perfect simple tense with *for* to indicate the duration of the action: *for two months, for a year, for a long time*. Use the present perfect simple with *since* to indicate when the action began: *since yesterday, since last June*.

Simple Past

In **1908**, a small asteroid **exploded** over Siberia.
 We **moved** to Muscat **three years ago**.
 She **didn't call** her mother **last night**.

Present Perfect

He **has worked** as a scientist **for many years**.
 We **have lived** in Muscat **since May**.
 We **haven't used** our car **for a long time**.

A. Work with a partner. Write sentences about the inventions.

Invention	Date	Invention	Date
credit card	1951	electric lightbulb	1879
canned food	the early 1800s	film making	1895
wristwatch	1910	paper clip	the 1890s
radio	1901	airplane	1903
toothpaste	1841	ballpoint pen	1888

 *People have had credit cards since 1951 / for about 70 years. (have)*

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. _____ (eat) | 6. _____ (watch) |
| 2. _____ (wear) | 7. _____ (use) |
| 3. _____ (listen) | 8. _____ (travel) |
| 4. _____ (use) | 9. _____ (use) |
| 5. _____ (have) | |

B. Have you used any of the inventions in exercise A? How long have you used them? Ask and answer questions with a partner. Add other inventions.

 **A:** Have you ever been on a plane?

B: Yes, I have. I traveled by plane when I went on vacation last summer.

A: Do you have a credit card?

 **B:** Yes, I've had a credit card for two years. OR I've had one since I was 18.



Expressing Ability, Permission and Requests

Ability

Use *can* to express ability in the present.

Can the robot do my homework for me? No, it can't. You can do it yourself!

Use *could* to express ability in the past.

Could people travel long distances before the airplane was invented? Yes, they could. They traveled by ship.

Permission

Use *may* and *can* to express permission.

May I leave early today?

Yes, you **may**. / No, you **may not**.

Can I have another soda?

Yes, you **can**. / No, **you can't**.

Requests

Use *can* and *could* to make polite requests. *Could* is more formal.

Could you fill in this form, please?

Yes, of course.

Can you help me?

Sure. / Not now. I'm busy.

Could you open the window?

Certainly. / Sorry, I can't.



If with Past Perfect and Would Be Able/Would Have Been Able

Use *if* + past perfect and *be able* to talk about ability and missed opportunities.

If I had studied computer science, I **would be able** to invent a cutting-edge robot. (present ability)

If Dr. Fleming had discovered penicillin sooner, doctors **would have been able** to save more lives during World War I. (past ability)

C. Complete the sentences with ***can*, *could* and *may*** and the verb in parentheses.

1. Ahmed, _____ you _____ (help) me with this box, please?
2. Excuse me, may I open the window? Yes, you _____.
3. We _____ (not/meet) tomorrow afternoon. I'm going to the dentist.
4. Mr. Sawyer _____ (not/see) you now. I'm afraid he's very busy.
5. _____ you _____ (swim) when you were a child? No, I couldn't.
6. Imad _____ (stay) very long. His friends are waiting for him.



D. Work with a partner. Talk about some past inventions and speculate what we would not be able to do now or in the past if things had been different. Use *if* + past perfect + *be able*.

If Alexander Bell had never invented the telephone, we would not be able to...

If the wheel had not been invented, we wouldn't have been able to...



3 If It Hadn't Happened

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12 Project



1. Do a class survey.
2. Find out what the most common regrets are.
Ask your classmates and make notes in the chart.
3. Repeat the survey with people outside class.
Ask questions and make notes in the chart.
4. Compare the results of the two surveys.



Survey question:

**Do you have any regrets? What do you regret most?
What do you wish you had or had not done?**

Students inside the classroom		People outside the classroom	
Name of the student	What they regret	Name of the person	What they regret
The most common regret in class is:			
The most common regret outside of class is:			
The most common regret is:			



13 Self Reflection



Things that I liked about Unit 3:	Things that I didn't like very much:

Things that I found easy in Unit 3:	Things that I found difficult in Unit 3:

Unit 3 Checklist	I can do this very well.	I can do this quite well.	I need to study/practice more.
talk about discoveries and inventions and how things would have been different without them			
talk about missed opportunities and regrets			
use <i>should have</i> + past participle			
use conditional sentences for hypothetical situations in the past			
use <i>if</i> with <i>could</i> and <i>might</i>			
use the present perfect and past simple with: <i>ago, for, since</i>			
use <i>if</i> + past perfect + <i>be able to</i>			
express ability, permission and requests			

My five favorite new words from Unit 3:	If you're still not sure about something from Unit 3:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • read through the unit again • listen to the audio material • study the grammar and functions from the unit again • ask your teacher for help

