

## If I had known ... I wish I had known ...

A

Study this example situation:

Last month Gary was in hospital for a few days. Rachel didn't know this, so she didn't go to visit him. They met a few days ago.

Rachel said:

**If I'd known** you were in hospital, I **would have gone** to see you.

Rachel said: **If I'd known** (= If I **had** known) you were in hospital. This tells us that she *didn't* know.

We use **if + had ('d)** ... to talk about the past (**if I had known/been/done** etc.):

- ☐ I didn't see you when you passed me in the street. **If I'd seen** you, of course I would have said hello. (but I didn't see you)
- ☐ I didn't go out last night. I would have gone out **if I hadn't been** so tired. (but I was tired)
- ☐ **If he had been looking** where he was going, he wouldn't have walked into the wall. (but he wasn't looking)
- ☐ The view was wonderful. **If I'd had** a camera with me, I would have taken some pictures. (but I didn't have a camera)

Compare:

- ☐ I'm not hungry. **If I was** hungry, I would eat something. (*now*)
- ☐ I wasn't hungry. **If I had been** hungry, I would have eaten something. (*past*)

B

Do not use **would** in the **if**-part of the sentence. We use **would** in the other part of the sentence:

- ☐ **If I had seen** you, I **would have said** hello. (*not* If I would have seen you)

Note that **'d** can be **would** or **had**:

- ☐ If **I'd seen** you, (I'd seen = I **had** seen)
- ☐ I'd **have said** hello. (I'd have said = I **would** have said)

C

We use **had (done)** in the same way after **wish**. I **wish** something **had happened** = I am sorry that it didn't happen:

- ☐ I **wish I'd known** that Gary was ill. I would have gone to see him. (but I didn't know)
- ☐ I feel sick. I **wish I hadn't eaten** so much cake. (I ate too much cake)
- ☐ Do you **wish you'd studied** science instead of languages? (you didn't study science)

Do not use **would have** ... after **wish**:

- ☐ The weather was cold when we were on holiday. I wish it **had been** warmer. (*not* I wish it would have been)

D

Compare **would (do)** and **would have (done)**:

- ☐ If I'd gone to the party last night, I **would be** tired now. (I am not tired now – *present*)
- ☐ If I'd gone to the party last night, I **would have met** lots of people. (I didn't meet lots of people – *past*)

Compare **would have**, **could have** and **might have**:

- ☐ If the weather hadn't been so bad, {
  - we **would have gone** out.
  - we **could have gone** out.
  - (= we would have been able to go out)
  - we **might have gone** out.
  - (= perhaps we would have gone out)