

Unit 8 • Lesson A: Wishes

Vocabulary

Imagining

could	(v)	
would	(v)	

Other words

if	(conj)	
be able to	(v)	
go kayaking	(v)	
help out	(v)	

Grammar

Wishes for the present or future

You can use *wish* + past form of the verb to talk about wishes for the present or future. In sentences like this, the opposite is true right now:

I wish I **had** more free time.

(I **don't have** a lot of free time right now.)

She wishes she **didn't live** so far away.

(She **lives** very far away.)

I wish I **weren't** so busy with my work.

(I'm very busy with my work.)

We wish we **could afford** to move.

(We **can't afford** to move.)

Remember, people say *I wish I was* . . . more frequently than *I wish I were* . . . , but this is not considered correct in written English.

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Imaginary situations or events in the present or future

You can use *if* + past form of the verb, then *would* / *could* + verb to describe imaginary situations in the present or future. In sentences like this, the opposite is true right now:

If I **had** more free time, I'd / I **would go** kayaking.

(I **don't go** kayaking.)

If she **lived** closer, she'd / she **would be able to** help out.

(She **isn't able to** help out.)

If I **were** less busy, I **could go away** on the weekends.

(I **can't go away** on the weekends.)

If we **could afford** to move, we **wouldn't live** in this tiny place.

(we **live** in this tiny place.)

The *if* + past form of the verb describes what needs to be true to get the result you want:

If I had more free time . . .

(= I don't have enough free time.)

The *would* / *could* + verb describes the result you want:

If I had more free time, I'd / I **would go** kayaking.

(= I want to have more free time in order to go kayaking.)

Remember, people say *If I was* . . . more frequently than *If I were* . . . , but this is not considered correct in written English.