Lesson Plan © Easy Access English

THE PERSON I SHOULD HAVE BEEN

EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn about Past Modals and use them.
Comprehension Activities.
Rôle Plays focussing on Past Modals

Activity One - **With your partner** - Think of a ***regret*** that you have *(For example I wish I had got up earlier this morning, or I wish I hadn't had so much champagne last night.)* Now say what you regret... Then say what you SHOULD HAVE DONE differently and what you WOULD HAVE DONE differently if you had known the consequences...

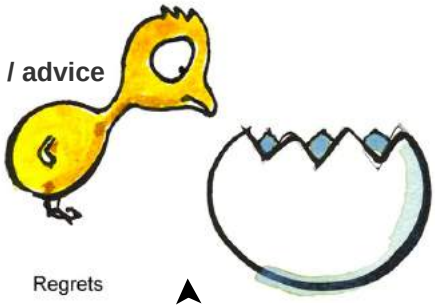
Activity Two - **EXPRESSING REGRET WITH PAST MODALS** - ***read the information.***

Should have, could have, and would have are sometimes called "modals of regret" because they describe situations when we are imagining that the past was different.

The general rule of Should, Could, and Would is:Should for recommendation / advice
"If you want to lose weight, you should eat healthy food."

- **Could** for possibilities
  "I have the day off tomorrow."
  "Great! We could spend the day at the beach. Or we could go shopping."

- **Would** for imagining results
  "If I were rich, I would buy a boat."


Regrets

The same general rule applies when using should have, could have, and would have **for imaginary past situations.**

Should Have - Use should have to say that a different action was recommended in the past.

- If you arrive late to English class, you can say:
- "I **should have** left my house earlier."
- If you regret an argument, you can say:
- "I **shouldn't have** shouted at you yesterday. I'm sorry."
- You can also use should have / shouldn't have to tell other people that a different action in the past would have been better. If your son gets bad marks at school, you can say:
- "You **should have** studied. You shouldn't have played video games all weekend."

Could Have Use could have to talk about possibilities if something had been different in the past.

- For example, someone who didn't go to University can say:
- "If I had gone to University, I **could have** got a better job."
- When talking about a gymnast who didn't win a competition, you can say:
- "She **could have** won the gold medal if she hadn't fallen three times."
- Could have is often used with "if + had + past participle" (If I had gone / if she hadn't fallen) – these "if" phrases express the imaginary past situation. However, in some cases you can use could have without the "if" phrase. Imagine you're driving with a person who makes a dangerous maneuver on the road. -
- "Are you crazy? We **could have** got into an accident."

Would Have Use would have to imagine a result (if something had been different in the past):

- If you arrive late at the airport and miss your flight, you can say:
- "If we had arrived earlier, we **would have** caught our flight."
- If you forget your umbrella, and it starts to rain, and you get wet, you can say:
- "If I had brought my umbrella, I **wouldn't have** gotten wet in the rain."
- **Would have** expresses more certainty about the result than **could have:**
- "If I had worked harder, I **could have** gotten a promotion."
  (maybe I'd get a promotion… but maybe not)
- On a test where you need 70% to pass:
  "I got a 68 on the test. If I had got two more points, I **would have** passed." *(with the two points, passing the test is CERTAIN)* - Note In spoken English, many people say should've, could've, and would've.

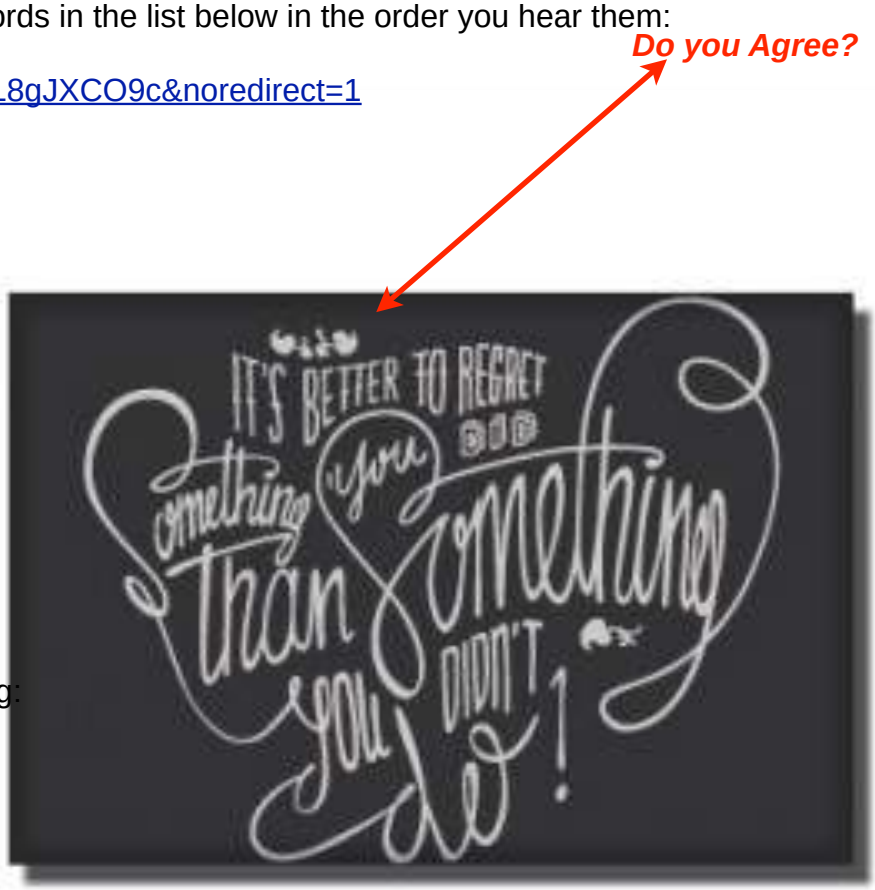
Psst ***- what's the chick regretting?***

Activity Three: "**The person I should have been."** - *James Morrison*

Listen to the **song** and number the words in the list below in the order you hear them:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8L8gJXCO9c&noredirect=1

- **twisted**
- **regrets**
- **version**
- **grip**
- **clean**
- **sincerity**
- **pray**
- **soul**
- **painted**
- **burning**
- **senses**
- **washes**
- **color**



Answer the **questions** about this song:

- What is the song about in general?
- What do you think he regrets?
- What does he resolve to do?
- What does he need to change?
- What does he say he has no time for?
- Do you like the song?

Activity Four - **Role Plays** - **Act out** the following situations and try to use *past modals* in your speech!

1.You are with your girlfriend in a bar and a really attractive woman walks past.. you forget yourself for a minute and comment on her appreciatively! Your girlfriend is not happy! You have to reassure her and show that you regret what you just said!

2.You get to work late because you wake up with a headache. Little by little you start to remember what happened at the office party last night... you realize that you have to apologize to a colleague..

3.You spend a lot of money on an impulse buy for yourself. When you get home you are reminded by your husband that it is his birthday. You had forgotten! You regret your actions and try to make amends!

4.Your son stays the weekend with friends but promises you that he will revise for an important test. He comes home with a bad mark a few days later and expresses regret that he didn't revise more... You try to explain that there's no point having regrets..

Activity Five - Things you should **not** have done!!

Think about something you really shouldn't have done, or sent or said, tell us about it!



*Would this be a useful warning message on **your** phone?*



Activity Six - Read the quotations about regret. **Vote** for the best one!

- "My one regret in life is that I am not someone else". Woody Allen
- "Remorse is the poison of life." Charlotte Bronte
- "Ones real life is often the life that one does not lead." Oscar Wilde
- "When one door closes another opens but we often look so long and so regretfully on the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us." Alexander Graham Bell.
- "Never regret. If it's good, it's wonderful. If it's bad, it's experience."- Victoria Holt
- "What's done is done" William Shakespeare.
- "People seldom do what they believe in. They do what is convenient, then repent." Bob Dylan.

Activity Seven - **Team Game** - In two teams each brainstorm a list of famous people who **should have done things differently.** Then you describe what they should have done differently and the opposing team has ***one*** **minute** to **guess who** you are talking about. If they can't guess it in one minute then they loose a point and the other team gains one! Take it in turns. Your teacher will sound the **buzzer** if a mistake is made with the Past Modals!

Activity Seven - **Sing Along** - In teams - One team sings the first part of this famous hymn to 'no regrets' the other team sings the second part - and has to sing LOUDER! The teacher will decide who wins! The losing team gets to do an encore!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6E2hYDIFDIU

MY WAY

And now, the end is near
And so I face the final curtain
My friend, I'll say it clear
I'll state my case, of which I'm certain

I've lived a life that's full
I traveled each and every highway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way

Regrets, I've had a few
But then again, too few to mention
I did what I had to do
And saw it through without exemption

I planned each charted course
Each careful step along the byway
And more, much more than this
I did it my way

Yes, there were times, I'm sure you knew
When I bit off more than I could chew

But through it all, when there was doubt
I ate it up and spit it out

I faced it all and I stood tall
And did it my way

I've loved, I've laughed and cried
I've had my fill, my share of losing
And now, as tears subside
I find it all so amusing to think I did all that

And may I say, not in a shy way
Oh, no, oh, no, not me, I did it my way

For what is a man, what has he got?
If not himself, then he has not
To say the things he truly feels
And not the words of one who kneels

The record shows I took the blows
And did it my way

Yes, it was my way

Activity Eight - Here is a famous ***poem*** about **the most famous regret! Read** the extract together and explain what this poem is about...

Christina Rosetti - ***'Eve.'***

Extract

"As a tree my sin stands
To darken all lands;
Death is the fruit it bore.

"How have Eden bowers grown
Without Adam to bend them!
How have Eden flowers blown,
Squandering their sweet breath,
Without me to tend them!
The Tree of Life was ours,
Tree twelvefold-fruited,
Most lofty tree that flowers,
Most deeply rooted:
I chose the Tree of Death.

"Hadst thou but said me nay,
Adam, my brother,
I might have pined away;
I, but none other:
God might have let thee stay
Safe in our garden
By putting me away
Beyond all pardon.

"I, Eve, sad mother
Of all who must live,
I, not another,
Plucked bitterest fruit to give
My friend, husband, lover.
O wanton eyes run over!
Who but I should grieve? -
Cain hath slain his brother:
Of all who must die mother,
Miserable Eve!"

Thus she sat weeping,
Thus Eve, our mother,
Where one lay sleeping
Slain by his brother."

At Home - **For** the **Whole Poem** and more information:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/poetryseason/poems/eve.shtml