What if history?



EAE Learning objectives for this lesson

Learn and practice real and unreal conditionals. Discussion activities. Comprehension activities.

Activity One - ***Discussion Questions..***



- ☑ Do you ever wonder about what might have happened if things had been different?
- ☑ Do you think about the past much?
- ☑ What would you like to have changed in your recent past? (The last month).

Activity Two - Read about REAL AND UNREAL CONDITIONALS…

'Past real conditionals'.

- If/when…… SIMPLE PAST…, …SIMPLE PAST…
- …SIMPLE PAST…if/when….SIMPLE PAST…

We use the past **real** conditional to describes what we used to in **real** life situations. This tense suggests that your habits or behavior today is different to what they were in the past.

Examples:

- When I went to parties, I normally **drank** a lot of beer. Now I'm sober.
- When I had a day off during college I often **went** to the beach. Nowadays I never really get the time
- My dad always **helped** me with my maths homework when he **had** the time. But now he doesn't have the time.

Important to note - The expression "used to" is often used to express the idea that something was an old habit that stopped in the past. This is commonly used in Past Real Conditional sentences to emphasize that something was a habit. The examples below have the same meaning:

- When I went to parties, I **used to drink** a lot of beer. Now I'm sober.
- When I had a day off during college **I used to go** to the beach. Nowadays I never really get the time.
- My dad **used to help** me with my maths homework when he **had** the time.

IF / When

- If- suggest something happened less frequently
- When- suggests something happened often.

WHAT IF...

Past Unreal Conditional

- **(If….. Past Perfect…., …would have + past participle..)**
- **(..would have + past participle..if…Past Perfect..)**

The Past Unreal Conditional is used to talk about imaginary situations in the past. You can describe what you would have done differently or how something could have happened differently if circumstances had been different.

Examples:

- If I **had owned** a car, I **would have driven** to work. But I didn't have one, so I took the tram.
- I **would have read** more as a child if I **hadn't watched** so much TV. Unfortunately, I did watch a lot of TV, so I never read for entertainment.
- Dan **would have gotten** the job and **moved** to Japan if she **had studied** Japanese in school instead of Dutch
- If Dan **had worked** harder, he **would have earned** more money. Unfortunately, he was lazy and he didn't earn much.

Important- Only the word "if" is used with the Past Unreal Conditional because you are discussing imaginary situations. "When" cannot be used.

Examples:

- I would have bought that computer **when** it had been cheaper. ***Not Correct***
- I would have bought that computer **if** it had been cheaper. ***Correct***

EXCEPTION Conditional with Modal Verbs

There are some special conditional forms for modal verbs in English:

would have + can = could have

would have + shall = should have

would have + may = might have

The words "can," "shall" and "may" cannot be used with "would have." Instead, they must be used in these special forms.

Examples:

- If I had gone to Egypt, I **could have learned** Arabic.
- If she had had time, she **might have gone** to the party.

The words "could," should," "might" and "ought to" include Conditional, so you cannot combine them with "would have."

Examples:

- If I had had more time, I **could have exercised** after work.
- If he had invited you, you **might have gone**.

Activity Three - **Discussion practice..**

Speak with your partner and answer the following questions: Discussion

1. When you were younger did you have any habits that you do not have now?
2. When you were younger did you have any fears or phobias that you don't have now? Explain.
3. If you had to live in another country how would your life be different?
4. If you were give then red pill or the blue pill in the Matrix which one would you have chosen?
5. If you were to have chosen a different profession how would you be different?
6. Is there anything in your life you would have done differently?
7. Do you have any regrets about something you wish had turned out differently?

Activity Four - **What If History?**



"What If" history is a branch of history where people speculate, argue and write essays about what might have happened if a crucial event of history had turned out differently. It is not considered a serious form of historical analysis but it is a fun way to imagine how the world might be different and also to practice our past conditionals.In groups, pairs or with your teacher answer the following questions.

1. What would have happened if the Southern states won the American civil war?
2. What would have happened if the Soviet Union had not collapsed?
3. What would have happened if President Kennedy had survived the assassination attempt?
4. What would the world be like if the West wasn't Christian?
5. What would have happened if John Lennon had never met Yoko Ono?
6. What would have happened if the internet had never been created?
7. What would have happened if Leon Trotsky had risen to power instead of Stalin?

Activity Five **On the waterfront-**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wz6YMrJt7xk--

"I could have been somebody, I could have been a contender".

This clip is from the movie "On the waterfront". In it, Marlon Brando's character Terry is a working class dockworker who is struggling to make a living and find a job. In his youth he was a very promising boxer but his career was never successful because he was deliberately had to lose fights so that criminals could make easy money by betting against him. Here he is lamenting to his friend that if he hadn't of had to "take dives" (deliberately lose fights) he could have been "somebody", a "real contender". In partners or groups write a story about what could, might, or would have happened if Terry had decided to not deliberately lose these fights.

Activity Six **Gap fill**- Fill in the gaps with the correct past tenses

Steve…. (walk) for hours when he suddenly noticed that the sun……(sink) in the sky. He …..(lose) track of time because ….. (think) about some of the issues that he had in his life at that time.

His relationship with his fiancé Rachel…. (be) the same recently. They….(know) each other for almost five years, and in that time, they had never experienced much turbulence. Recently that all began to change as their relationship…. (become) fraught with conflict and consternation from both sides. For the first time in his life he…..(started) to wonder if he…(be) ready for marriage.

Everything in his life…. (go) well until his world began to fall apart last month. A very prestigious company ….(offer) Rachel an important position that would require her to move to Paris. However, he only…..(discover) this when he accidentally opened her email account instead of his. If they…. (to be) married Steve would have to move as well. Why hasn't she discussed this with him?

Although Steve…..(always want) to live abroad he was conflicted. France was a nice place but he doesn't like snails. More importantly, why the deception from his fiancé? Is he willing to say goodbye to the land of the brave and start a new life halfway across the world? If the answer was no, ….(he be) ready to say goodbye to the only women he ……(ever love)?

Activity Seven **Poem- IF-** Rudyard Kipling- read out here by Michael Caine
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JWvcwVWCcnY

This poem was written by British Nobel Laureate Rudyard Kipling, in 1895.



If you can keep your head when all about you
    Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
    But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
    Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
    And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
    If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
    And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
    Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
    And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
    And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
    And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew

To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!



Activity Eight **QUESTIONS -**

1. What do you think this poem is about?
2. In the second stanza he writes "if you can dream-and not make dreams your master". What do you think the poet means by this?
3. What do you think he means when he writes "If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools"?
4. What is your favorite line in this poem?
5. Do you think the messages and advice in this poem are still relevant today?
6. This poem is written as a form of paternal advice for a father to a son. What advice do you wish you had gotten when you were younger and how do you think your life would have been different as a result?

Activity Nine **Role-plays**- Act out the following role-plays with your partner

1. Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump debate each other and talk about they would have done differently to Barack Obama if they were President
2. John Lennon and Paul McCartney talk about how their lives would have been different if they had not been in The Beatles
3. You are discussing with your parents what would of it been like if you were born the opposite sex
4. You and your friends found one million euros of cash in a bag when you were 15. You decided to hand it in to the police station and not take it for yourself. Now grown up with kids and a wife you discuss how your life might have been different if you had decided to keep it.

