

### Adverbial phrases

We can use the following adverbial phrases to mean *generally / tend to*. They go at the beginning of the sentence or clause.

**In general**, people here don't eat much foreign food.

**On the whole**, people meet in a restaurant rather than at their home.

**As a rule**, we didn't eat much meat when I was a kid.

**Generally speaking**, I eat after seven at night.

### Adverbs

You can also use adverbs like *usually, generally, normally or hardly ever / any*. They usually go between the subject and the verb.

*I normally stay at home during the week.*

*People hardly ever kiss in public.*

In negative sentences, they usually come after the auxiliary verb and before the main verb.

*I don't normally eat lunch.*

*People don't generally kiss in public.*

### Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with one word in each space. Contractions count as one word.

- I don't like cooking, so I \_\_\_\_\_ to eat out a lot.
- \_\_\_\_\_ general, the food here is really good.
- I don't \_\_\_\_\_ eat shellfish, but this is really nice.
- People here \_\_\_\_\_ complain if the service is bad. It's just that I personally tend \_\_\_\_\_ to.
- As a \_\_\_\_\_, I eat as healthily as I can, so I \_\_\_\_\_ ever eat fried foods.
- The problem is, most people \_\_\_\_\_ tend to think about where meat comes from once it's packaged, so \_\_\_\_\_ speaking, they don't worry that much about animal welfare.
- On the \_\_\_\_\_, food from my country is fairly unhealthy, but I still love it.
- He has a terrible diet. I mean, he eats hardly \_\_\_\_\_ vegetables or fruit.

## SECOND CONDITIONALS

We use second conditionals to speculate about situations and possible results. They usually have two parts: an *if*-clause referring to the situation and a second clause showing results or consequences.

We use the past simple, past continuous (or *could*) in the *if*-clause. The *if*-clause refers to a situation in the present or future which is impossible to change or is not going to take place.

The other clause explains the imagined results or consequences. We use *would* + infinitive (without *to*) to show a definite result, or *might* + infinitive (without *to*) to show a possible result.

Either clause can come first. When the *if*-clause comes first, add a comma after it.

*If I ate this kind of thing every day, I'd get really fat!*

*If I wasn't working part-time in the restaurant, I wouldn't be able to pay my university fees.*

*I'd go there more often if it wasn't so expensive!*

*It'd be better if they served bigger portions.*

*You're so unadventurous! If you actually tried it, you might like it!*

*I'd buy more organic food if it was / were cheaper.*

*If it wasn't / weren't so expensive, I'd shop there all the time.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

It is very common in spoken English to say *if / he / she / it was ...*. However, some people see this as incorrect and prefer *if / he / she / it were ...*.

### Exercise 1

Choose the correct option.

- I'd love to come tonight, but I'm afraid I have to take an important client out to dinner. If it *is / was / would be* anyone else, I *cancel / will cancel / would cancel* it, but I really can't. Sorry.
- It's not really my kind of place, to be honest. Perhaps if I *am / would be / were* a bit younger, I *enjoy / might enjoy / would be enjoy* it, but it's just a bit too trendy for me now.
- That sounds horrible! I don't know what I *do / would do / will do* if that *happens / would happen / happened* to me.
- I *would be / am / will be* happy to have the party at our place if our flat *is / were / would be* a bit bigger, but it's just too small for something like this.
- It's a lovely place, but it's not cheap! I mean, you *will only go / would only go / only go* there if you *would be / will be / were* earning good money!

### Exercise 2

Decide which six sentences are incorrect then correct them.

- I will really miss eating fried chicken if I were a vegetarian!
- You'd be in trouble if you had to use chopsticks all the time!
- I wouldn't eat tripe even if you'd pay me!
- You might lose weight if you didn't drink so much!
- They would can make more money if they started stocking more foreign food.
- If I would be better at cooking, I might invite people round for dinner more often.
- I'd be happy to pay for dinner sometimes – if you wanted me to!
- I would go crazy if I had to go on a diet!
- I wouldn't ask you if I wouldn't really need your help.
- If I am you, I'd just do what it tells you to do in the book.

## 9 HOUSES

### PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE AND PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The present perfect simple (*have / has + (not) + past participle*) is often used to talk about trends continuing from the past to now. We often use an adverb to say how quickly the change happened, or by how much. We use a time phrase to show the period of time.

			over the past few months.
			over the last few years.
			over the past ten years.
Unemployment	risen	dramatically	in recent months.
has	gone up	steadily	in recent months.
House prices	gone down	gradually	in recent years.
have	dropped	slightly	in recent years.
	fallen	a bit	since last year.
		by 15%	since the last election.

### Continuous or simple?

We also use the continuous form (*have / has + (not) + been + -ing*) to talk about trends continuing from the past to now. The continuous form can be used to emphasise the duration of an activity or the fact that it is regularly repeated.

*Unemployment has been rising over the last year.*

*House prices have been falling steadily.*

*The situation has been gradually improving over recent months.*

We don't use the continuous form when showing quick changes or to say exactly how much.

*The price of oil has been increasing has increased dramatically.*

*Inflation has been falling has fallen by 3% this year.*

We also use the simple form for finished changes / events that took place at some point before now.

*They have built 6,000 new houses in our city in the last two years. (= already built)*

*I've seen one or two places on sale with a discount. (= in the past, before now)*

### Exercise 1

Decide if both forms are possible in each sentence. If not, choose the correct option.

- Inflation *has been gradually falling / has gradually fallen* over the last two years.
- The population *has grown / has been growing* dramatically in recent years.
- The government *has introduced / has been introducing* laws in the last year to prevent foreigners buying property and leaving it empty.
- More and more people *have been leaving / have left* the country because of the economic problems.
- Unemployment *has increased / has been increasing* by 6% since the crash.
- Things *have improved / have been improving* slowly over the last few years.
- We *have moved / have been moving* house three times in the last five years.
- I've been under a bit of stress, because *I've moved / I've been moving* house recently.

### Exercise 2

Complete the sentences with one word in each space. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- The crime rate has \_\_\_\_\_ falling steadily over the last twenty years.
- Unemployment has risen sharply \_\_\_\_\_ the start of the economic crisis.
- The birth rate has fallen \_\_\_\_\_ from 2.4 to 2.1 over the last decade.
- In the last decade, the population has grown \_\_\_\_\_ 25% to reach 100 million people.
- Oil prices have \_\_\_\_\_ dramatically in \_\_\_\_\_ months. It was \$125 a barrel at the beginning of the year and now it's \$80.
- House prices \_\_\_\_\_ more or less stayed the same \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ two years.

## COMPARING NOW AND THE PAST

### Comparisons with nouns

We can use *more* with any kind of noun.

We use *fewer* or *not as many* with plural countable nouns.

We use *less* or *not as much* with uncountable nouns.

We often make comparatives between now and the past using the following patterns.

There are	(many) more	cars on the road	than	before.
	(far) fewer	bars in the area		in the past.
There aren't	(nearly) as many	schools here	as	there were.
		working-class people		there used to be.
There is	(much) more	pollution	than	there were when I was a kid.
	(far) less	car crime		
There isn't	as much	investment	as	there were 20 years ago.
		news on TV		

Note that we more commonly start with the present situation, but we can also start with the past.

*There were fewer problems in the past than there are now.*

*Twenty years ago, parents spent more time with their children (than they do now).*

### Comparisons with adjectives

We also compare the past and present using comparative adjectives.

*The area is more popular with young people than it used to be.*

*That part of town used to be much rougher than it is now.*

*I'm not as fit as I was when I was at university.*

### Exercise 1

There is one word missing in each sentence. Add the word in the correct place.

- It's far multicultural than it was ten years ago.
- It wasn't nice as the last time we went there.
- There aren't as people living here as when I was a kid.
- There's less unemployment there used to be.
- There are more restaurants than were before.
- The area isn't as working class as used to be.
- There isn't as pollution round here since the government tightened the laws.
- There didn't use to be as many shops here as there now.

### Using auxiliary verbs in comparisons

Notice that the second auxiliary verb in comparisons might be different to the first.

*The area has more cultural events than it did before.*

*It's not as interesting as it was twenty years ago.*

### Exercise 2

Complete the sentences below with these verbs.

used to be    can    do    did    were    is

- It's not as difficult to get round the city as it \_\_\_\_\_.
- There are so many more cars on the street than there \_\_\_\_\_ a few years ago.
- I used to work a lot harder than I \_\_\_\_\_ now.
- We spend less money at the supermarket than we \_\_\_\_\_ in the past.
- Before they changed the laws, we could work more hours per week than we \_\_\_\_\_ now.
- It never used to be as multicultural as it \_\_\_\_\_ now.

## 10 GOING OUT

### QUANTIFIERS

We use quantifiers when we want to give information about the number or amount of something.

not any	no	There are <b>no</b> cinemas nearby. There <b>aren't any</b> cinemas nearby.
hardly any	(very) few	<b>Few / Hardly any</b> locals can afford to go to the top restaurants.
almost no	(very) little	I <b>heard it can be dangerous, but we saw almost no / very little</b> trouble.
		A lot of us went home, but <b>some / a few</b> people went on to a club.
	a few	I <b>don't drink much</b> , but I may have <b>some / a little</b> wine at dinner.
some	a little	There <b>weren't many</b> people there.
	not much	<b>Some</b> , but I expected more.
	not many	There <b>isn't much</b> nightlife here. There are <b>a few</b> places, but there could be more.
	(so) many	<b>A lot of / many</b> people are living in poverty.
a lot of	(so) much	Apparently, things are expensive because there's <b>a lot of / so much</b> corruption.
almost all		<b>Almost all / Most</b> clubs charge you to get in. <b>Hardly any</b> have free entry.
almost every	most	<b>Almost every</b> place we went to had a TV with a fashion channel on.
		The DJ plays <b>all</b> kinds of music.
all / every		<b>Every</b> time I go out someone hassles me!

#### few and many, little and much

(A) few and many go with plural countable nouns, e.g. people, cinemas, locals, etc.

(A) little and much go with uncountable nouns, e.g. money, corruption, poverty, etc.

We often use these quantifiers with so. They often link a cause and result.

We have **so much** daylight in the summer that it's difficult to sleep sometimes.

There was no real atmosphere in the place because there were **so few** people.

#### a few and few, a little and little

A few and a little generally have a more positive meaning than few and little.

I had **a little break** and took **a few days** off work.

I have **little time** to myself, so I know **few people** here.

#### no and not

We cannot use *not* directly before a noun – we have to use *no* or *not any*.

I **haven't have no / don't have any** idea where it is.

There **aren't are no / aren't any** clubs round here.

#### all and every

We can use *all* with singular and plural nouns. We usually use a determiner such as *the, my, your* or *these* with plural nouns. We use *every* only with singular nouns.

The party lasted **all day and all night**. (= the whole day / night)

We saw **all the sites** while we were there.

We visited **every museum** and gallery in the city!

#### DID YOU KNOW?

In spoken language, we usually use *a lot* in positive sentences. We generally use *much* and *many* in negative sentences or with *so* (see above). However, in formal or academic writing, *much* and *many* are often used in positive sentences.

#### Exercise 1

Complete the text with one word in each space.

I live in a fairly small place in Chile, so there's <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ entertainment at night. There are a <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ bars, but only one is open late and they don't play <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ music that I like. So <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ weekends, I travel to Santiago where there are a <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of clubs playing <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ kinds of music, such as Salsa, Reggaeton, Pop stuff. Personally, I'm a big fan of electronic dance music and there's a growing scene in Santiago. It's mainly Chilean DJs playing in the clubs, but we get <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ international DJs coming over and there's also a big festival – Sensation – <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ year. I'd like to move to Santiago soon, because I spend so <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ time there, but there are <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ jobs available at the moment so I'll have to see.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

When we use nouns with *the* or pronouns after some quantifiers, we add *of* after the quantifier.

*some of us, (a) few of them,*

*most of the time, many of the best restaurants*

#### Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and four words, including the word given.

- I went to the cinema with several friends last night.  
**US**  
A \_\_\_\_\_ to the cinema last night.
- We could hardly move because the place was packed.  
**PEOPLE**  
There \_\_\_\_\_ there, we could hardly move.
- There won't be anything to eat at the party.  
**FOOD**  
There'll \_\_\_\_\_ at the party.
- Crime is almost non-existent, so you can walk safely at night.  
**VERY**  
You can walk safely at night as there \_\_\_\_\_ crime.
- A lot of restaurants in town have discounts for students.  
**MANY**  
If you're a student, you can get a discount at \_\_\_\_\_ town's restaurants.

## THE FUTURE IN THE PAST

### Plans and intentions

We often use the structure *was / were going to* + infinitive (without *to*) to talk about things that were planned or intended, but then didn't happen. To explain why, we often add a clause starting with *but*.

I **was going to go** swimming after work yesterday, **but** in the end I was too tired.

Some friends **were going to come** for dinner, **but** they rang to say they **couldn't** make it.

I **was just going to go** out for a walk when it started pouring with rain.

### Promises and predictions

We often use *would(n't)* + infinitive (without *to*) to talk about promises and predictions in the past – especially ones that didn't then happen or come true. We also usually use another verb in the past simple in the same sentence.

He **promised he wouldn't be** late. (but he was late / but he is late now)

(His actual words were probably 'I won't be late.')

I **said I'd go** with her. (but you didn't!)

(Your actual words were probably 'I'll go with you.')

The play **was better than I thought it would be**.

(My actual thought was 'I don't think it'll be very good.')

I **didn't think it'd be** anything special. (but it was)

(My actual thought was 'I don't think it will be anything special.' / 'It won't be anything special.')

#### Exercise 1

Complete the exchanges with one word in each space.

- A: So did you go and see that film last night?  
B: No, I was going <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, but I had an essay to hand in and it took longer than I thought it <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, so by the time I'd finished, it <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, too late.
- A: What did you do at the weekend?  
B: Nothing much. We <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ going to go to the beach, but the weather was so awful, we just stayed at home.  
A: I know. It was terrible, wasn't it? It was so annoying, because the forecast said it <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ be sunny!
- A: So how was your holiday? Did you go away anywhere?  
B: Bad question, I'm afraid! You see, me and my brother <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ going to go to visit our uncle in Spain. He'd promised he <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ pay for the flights, but in the end he said he **couldn't** afford it, so we just had to <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at home instead.

#### Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. You must use between three and five words, including the word given.

- A friend rang and said he had tickets for the Slayer concert, which is why I didn't stay in.  
**OUT**  
I was \_\_\_\_\_, but a friend gave me a ticket for the Slayer concert.
- I expected him to be rubbish, but he was actually quite good.  
**THOUGHT**  
His performance was much better \_\_\_\_\_ be.
- It's so sunny! The forecast was for rain.  
**IT**  
They said \_\_\_\_\_, but it's turned out really nice.
- My dad promised to help me later.  
**SAID**  
He \_\_\_\_\_ me later.
- The government has broken their promise not to raise taxes.  
**INCREASE**  
At the election, the government said \_\_\_\_\_, but they have.
- I feel a bit guilty about not going to the party because I promised to be there.  
**DEFINITELY**  
I told her \_\_\_\_\_ at the party, so I feel guilty that I haven't gone.

## 11 THE NATURAL WORLD

### PAST ABILITY / OBLIGATION

#### could

With sense verbs (see, hear, feel, smell, taste), we usually use *could(n't)* + infinitive (without *to*) rather than *managed to*.

We **managed to could** hear these little cries coming from somewhere, **but we couldn't see** her anywhere.

When I walked in, I **managed to could** immediately **smell** gas.

We also use *could* to talk about general abilities in the past.

I **could ride** a horse by the time I was five.

He **could make** these crazy noises like a dog! It was really funny.

#### couldn't / could hardly

We use *couldn't* or *could hardly* to show it wasn't possible to do something in a specific situation.

We **couldn't see** her anywhere. (= It wasn't possible for us to see her.)

I **chased it for ages, but I just couldn't catch** it. (= It wasn't possible.)

I was so nervous I **could hardly say** a word.

Note that we can also use *didn't manage to* or *hardly managed to* in these situations. However, these structures are less commonly used than *could / could hardly*.

#### managed to

We use *managed to* + infinitive (without *to*) – not *could* – to show an ability to do something difficult in a specific situation.

When it came down, I **could managed to catch** it and put it into a box.

The fire service took ages trying to get the cat out of the tree, but they **could managed to do** it in the end.

I **screamed and screamed and eventually I could managed to attract** someone's attention.

Note how *managed to* often goes with words and phrases such as *finally, in the end* and *eventually*.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

We often use *managed to* when talking about stupid mistakes. I **managed to lose** my passport somehow.

We **managed to get ripped off** everywhere we went.

#### had to

We use *had to* + infinitive (without *to*) – not *must* – to show we felt there was no other choice.

We **had to call** the fire services.

I **had to put** some fruit and seeds on the ground to tempt it down.

I **couldn't see** the monkeys so I **had to sit** on my boyfriend's shoulders.

### Exercise 1

Complete the sentences with *could*, *couldn't*, *managed to* or *had to*.

- I was cycling along and this dog suddenly chased after me, but I just \_\_\_\_\_ cycle fast enough to escape.
- We went on a whale watching trip, but we \_\_\_\_\_ see anything because the weather was terrible.
- It was a bit scary camping at night, because you \_\_\_\_\_ actually hear wolves howling in the distance!
- It got so dark we \_\_\_\_\_ hardly see anything. I'm amazed we \_\_\_\_\_ get down the mountain without falling.
- My dog was making such a dreadful noise I \_\_\_\_\_ lock him inside a room so the neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ hear.
- There were cockroaches in the house and I \_\_\_\_\_ get rid of them, so in the end we \_\_\_\_\_ call a specialist to deal with the problem.
- There were so many people on the train, you \_\_\_\_\_ really move, but I actually \_\_\_\_\_ get a seat in the end. I was really lucky.
- The car broke down in the middle of nowhere and I \_\_\_\_\_ get it to start, then we \_\_\_\_\_ wait for ages for the breakdown service to come.

### PASSIVES

Passives allow us to emphasise the person or thing an action is done to. We make passive sentences with a form of the verb *be* + past participle. Passives can be used in different tenses.

#### Present simple

*Most of the coal is exported.*  
*Over 3,000 people are employed in the mine.*

#### Present continuous

*More gas than ever is being exported from the country.*  
*Many people believe that prices are being controlled by the major suppliers.*

#### Past simple

*A lot of money was stolen by corrupt politicians.*  
*During the civil war thousands of people were killed.*

#### Past continuous

*About 80% of the oil was being sold, the rest was being kept.*  
*The government was worried that diamonds were being exported illegally.*

#### Present perfect simple

*The profits from oil have been invested in health care.*  
*Oil has been discovered in the north of the country.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

We don't usually make passives in the present perfect continuous.

#### Modal verbs

To make passives after a modal verb, use *be* + past participle.  
*The resources there can now be extracted more easily.*  
*Most natural resources will be used up in the next 50 years.*  
*More should be done to help developing countries.*

#### by

You can introduce who or what did the action using the word *by* after the verb.  
*The phrase 'the resource curse' was first used by the writer Richard Auty.*

However, we often don't mention who or what did an action because:

- it is not clear or not known.  
*Oil has been discovered in the north.* (= We don't know who by.)
- it is obvious.  
*Most of the coal is exported.* (by the companies who mine it)  
*Taxes are not being spent wisely.* (by the government)

### Exercise 1

Choose the correct option.

I recently <sup>1</sup>attended / was attended a conference on how profits from the sale of natural resources can best <sup>2</sup>use / be used for human development. It's an important question because oil and gas have recently <sup>3</sup>discovered / been discovered in many African countries, including Ghana, Uganda and Kenya. In many sub-Saharan countries, natural resources have <sup>4</sup>managed / been managed very badly for too many years, and people in many resource-rich countries often still <sup>5</sup>receive / are received worse educations and health care than people in countries without resources. Interestingly, I learned that in many countries with lots of natural resources, people <sup>6</sup>aren't taxed / don't tax very much. As a result, they <sup>7</sup>aren't expected / don't expect much from their governments in return. They pay less and so they have less reason to worry about how their money <sup>8</sup>spends / is spent. This leaves politicians free to keep the money that has <sup>9</sup>earned / been earned by selling the natural resources. Sadly, if people do complain, the government often uses oil or gas money to <sup>10</sup>pay / be paid the army to stop any protests.

### Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and four words, including the word given.

- They discovered oil there back in the 1970s.  
**WAS**  
\_\_\_\_\_ back in the 1970s.
- The government subsidises petrol prices, which is why they are so low.  
**BY**  
Petrol is so cheap there because \_\_\_\_\_ the government.
- There's a lot of pollution in the rivers because of the mining.  
**BADLY**  
The rivers have \_\_\_\_\_ because of the mining.
- The government could do more to stop corruption if it wanted to.  
**DONE**  
More \_\_\_\_\_ stop corruption if the government wanted to.
- They are building a new motorway which will destroy the area.  
**BUILT**  
The area will be destroyed by this new motorway \_\_\_\_\_.
- They should do more to prevent people cutting down trees illegally.  
**BEING**  
More should be done to prevent \_\_\_\_\_ illegally.

## 12 PEOPLE I KNOW

### USED TO, WOULD AND PAST SIMPLE

#### Habits and regular events

We can use all three forms: *used to* + infinitive (without *to*), *would* + infinitive (without *to*) and the past simple to talk about habits or regular events in the past. Often these habits / events no longer happen now.

*Would* is more common than *used to*. We often start with *used to* and then give extra details using *would*.

*He smoked a pipe. I used to love the smell of the fresh tobacco. I'd sometimes even open the tin when he wasn't there to smell it.*

*We used to live next door to my cousins so we'd spend a lot of time together. We'd play together most days in the street in front of our block of flats.*

#### Negatives

All of the following are commonly used by native speakers, though some people say the last form is incorrect. In exams, it's best to avoid it, but don't be surprised if you hear or see it used.  
*My grandparents never used to visit us. We'd always go to their house.*

*My grandparents didn't use to visit us. We'd always go to their house.*

*My grandparents didn't used to visit us. We'd always go to their house.*

#### Past state

We talk about past states with the past simple or *used to* – not *would*.

*I loved / used to love the smell of fresh tobacco.*

*He had / used to have long white hair.*

*I belonged / used to belong to a gym, but I never went, so I stopped paying in the end.*

#### Single events

We only use the past simple for single events.

*When he used to die died, Gran would-move moved to a town by the seaside.*

*They used-to-get got married and would-have had their first child a year later.*

### Exercise 1

Decide if both forms are possible in each sentence. If not, choose the correct option.

A: Arnedo's a lovely place, isn't it? How do you know it?

B: Well, my parents <sup>1</sup>used to have / would have a little house near there. We <sup>2</sup>would go / went there every summer for a month.

A: Really? Whereabouts?

B: The house <sup>3</sup>was / would be just outside the town.

A: Lovely. Did you <sup>4</sup>use to go / go walking round there?

B: Not really. In fact, we <sup>5</sup>would never / never used to do much while we were there. We <sup>6</sup>would go / went swimming in the river, we <sup>7</sup>went / used to go for bike rides, but to be honest, none of us were into walking.

A: Oh, OK. So how come your parents <sup>8</sup>used to sell / sold the house?

B: Well, as we <sup>9</sup>would get / got older, we used to complain so much about going they <sup>10</sup>would decide / decided to sell it.

### EXPRESSING REGRET USING WISH

We use the past perfect simple (*had* + past participle) after *wish* to express regret about things in the past. To express regret about things that didn't happen, but that we wanted to happen, we use *wish* + *had* + past participle.

*I wish I'd been a bit stricter with my children.* (= I was quite indulgent with them and they became spoilt.)

To express regret about things that did happen, but that we didn't want to happen, use *wish* + *hadn't* + past participle.

*I wish I hadn't eaten so much.* (= I ate a lot and now I feel sick.)

### Exercise 1

Choose the correct option.

- I often wish I *had* / *hadn't* travelled more when I had the chance, but it's impossible with the children.
- I wish I *had* / *hadn't* gone. It was such a waste of time.
- All the flights are really expensive. I wish I *had* / *hadn't* left it till the last minute to book them.
- I wish I *had* / *hadn't* brought up my children in the country. It's healthier and they would've had more freedom.
- I wish I *had* / *hadn't* ignored him. He was right.
- Thanks. You've been really helpful. I wish I *had* / *hadn't* spoken to you earlier.
- I really shouted at her and I wish I *had* / *hadn't* now.
- I never really pushed my children very hard, but I sometimes wish I *had* / *hadn't*. They would've thanked me for it.

### DID YOU KNOW?

There are other common ways of expressing regret.

*I really regret not asking for her phone number.* (= I wish I'd asked her for her phone number.)

*It's a shame I didn't think of that.* (= I wish I'd thought of that.)

### Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- I really regret starting smoking.  
I really wish \_\_\_\_\_.
- I really regret not asking her.  
I wish \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's a shame you didn't tell me.  
I wish \_\_\_\_\_.
- I regret being so hard on my children.  
I wish \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's a shame I lost touch with them.  
I really wish \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's a shame I didn't move when I had the chance.  
I wish \_\_\_\_\_.

## 13 JOURNEYS

### THIRD CONDITIONALS

We use third conditionals to talk about imagined past situations. To form third conditionals, use the past perfect in the *if*-clause. The other clause shows the possible results or consequences of the *if*-clause. We use *would* + *have* + past participle if the consequence seems definite. We use *could* (or *might*) + *have* + past participle if the consequence seems only possible.

Either clause can come first. When the *if*-clause comes first, add a comma after it.

Compare these examples with the real situations given in brackets.

*If he hadn't been so determined, Hussain could easily have given up and returned home.*

(= He was really determined and so he didn't give up and go home. He continued with his journey.)

*If I'd stayed in Afghanistan, none of this would've happened.*

(= He didn't stay in Afghanistan. He moved to Australia, where he set up his own business.)