

There is another type of conditional form, based around the word wish and the phrase if only. We use the following forms:

To talk about things we want to be different in the present or the future:

Wish / if only + past simple –e.g. I wish I spoke English

To describe things we regret doing in the past, or want to be different in the past:

Wish / if only + past perfect- e.g. If only I had studied English grammar more carefully!

To express irritation with someone:

Wish / if only + would- e.g. I wish she would stop smoking!



Mark 8:38 says that when Jesus returns, there will be a judgment. Those who have believed and done right things, will be given eternal life. They will be very happy. Those who refused to believe and did wrong things will not be given eternal life. They will be rejected. They will be very sad and angry



Imagine the scene at the day of judgment. Imagine the sorts of things that people will be thinking or saying. The rejected people will be using Wish / if only + past perfect- to express their regrets about what they regret having done. The accepted people will be glad and grateful for what they did and believed in their past lives. They will also be using the third conditional to describe events in the past which are imagined. So, the accepted people could be saying:

If I had not been baptized, I would not have been accepted by Jesus!

If I had not met Steve, I would never have known about Jesus!

The rejected could be saying:

I wish I had listened to Steve!

If only I had read the Bible!

If only I had not spent all my time watching TV!

**8** In pairs, one of you role play a rejected person at the day of judgment; the other plays the role of an accepted person. What would you be saying? Use the third conditional and wish / If only.