

Learner Level: Intermediate - Advanced

Theme: Regrets, Goals, The Elderly

Language focus: Past Conditional

Skills: Grammar and Speaking

Time: 10 minutes

Materials: 1 blank slip of paper for each student

Preparation: Cut out paper slips (or just tear). Write "retired" on half and "still working" on the other half. On one piece write "It's my party". Familiarize yourself with the third conditional.

Quick Reference:

Students pretend to be at a **retirement party**. Some pretend to be retired while others are still working. Party goers share regrets about the past as well as hopes and goals for the future.

Teacher Instructions:

1. Pass out slips of paper to students. Some students pretend to be "retired". Others are "still working". One student will get the paper that says "It's my party."
2. As you hand out the slips of paper, ask students when they think they will retire. What do they think retirement life will be like?
3. Ask which student has the slip of paper that says "It's my party". You can write "Happy Retirement _____ (name)" on the board.
4. Invite students to walk around the room pretending they are at the retirement party. Each person should congratulate the retiree and share some regrets about their past. Students shouldn't tell each other whether they are retired or still working. (They should be able to figure it out by chatting.) Teach them to say things like, "**Oh, so you're still working,**" and "**Oh, it sounds as though you're retired.**"

Give Examples: ✓

Choose your own or use these:

- a. I wish I had spent more time with my kids.
 - b. If I had graduated from college, I would have had more money to pass down to my kids.
 - c. If I hadn't married Michael, I would have found a man I truly loved. He would have been here with me today.
 - d. I wish I hadn't stayed with my company when they experienced financial difficulties.
 - e. If I had listened to my mother, I would have been a famous painter by now.
 - f. I wish I had followed my dreams. I wanted to be a professional athlete but my parents told me I didn't have a chance.
5. After a few minutes of complaining, have students share hopes and goals for the future. Remind students that the mood of the room should change.

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Teacher Instructions - continued: ✍

If students seem to be running out of things to talk about place some questions on the board that they can ask each other.

1. What was the highlight of your career?
2. When will you be retiring?
3. Where have you been vacationing lately?
4. Where do you think you'll be in 10 years?
5. Do you have any grandchildren?
6. What is your beauty secret?

Teacher 2 Teacher: ☀

If your students already know Conditional 3 you may want to briefly review the structure required to express hypothetical situations from the past as you write the examples on the board. If they are not familiar you can write a few examples on the board and teach the grammar after or assign a grammar lesson for homework. As you facilitate, offer individual help for proper construction of this conditional form.

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