



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 39 – If I knew ... I wish I knew ...

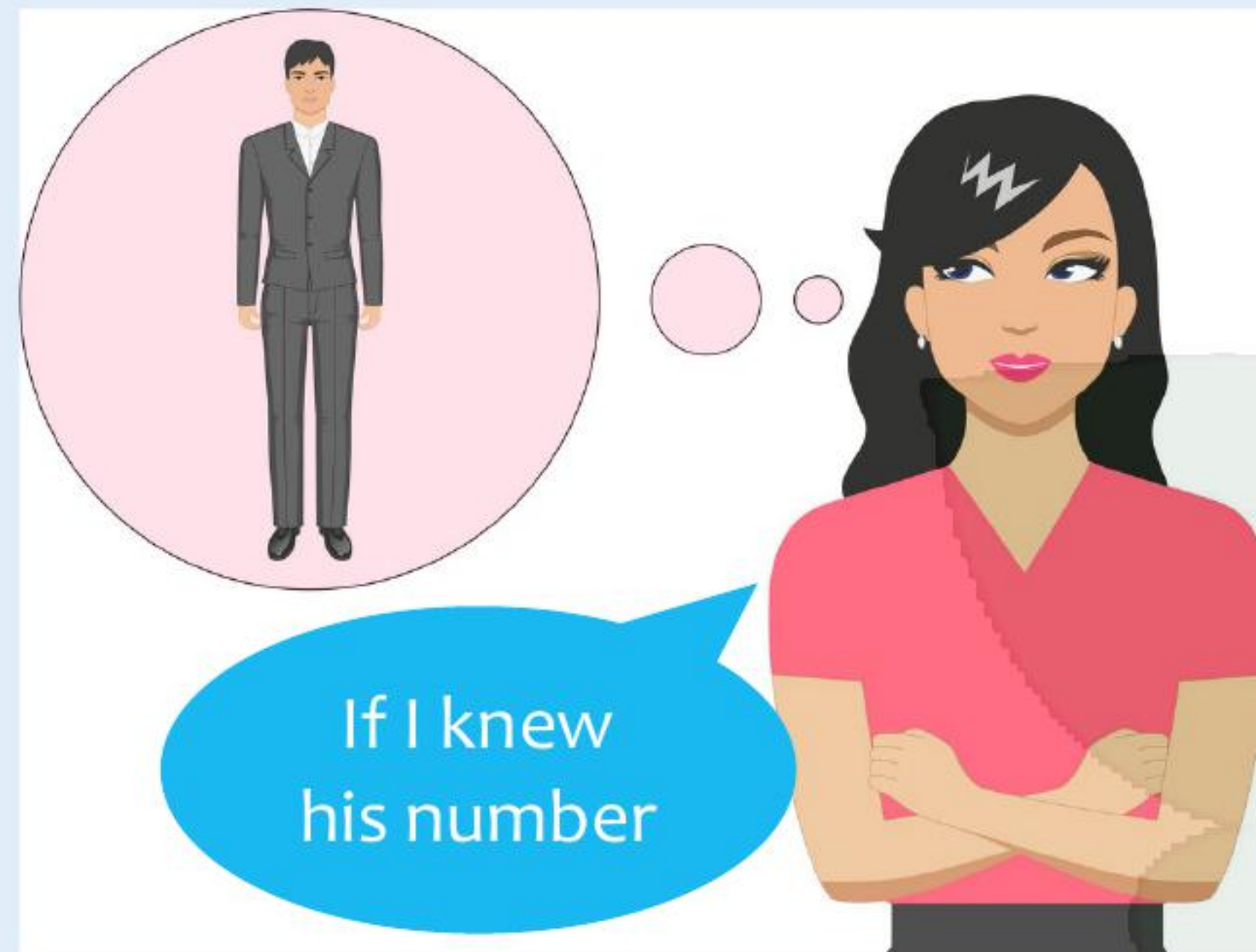
tienganh



If I knew ... I wish I knew ...

IF I KNEW

A



Sarah wants to phone Paul, but she can't do this because she doesn't know his number. She says:

- **I'd phone** him **if I knew** his number.
(*I'd phone = I would phone*)

Sarah doesn't know Paul's number, so she says "**if I knew**".

She imagines what she would do if she knew his number.

When we imagine a situation like this, we use **if + past** (*if I knew / if you were / if we didn't etc.*).

But the meaning is present, not past:

- EX1: There are many things I'd like to do **if I had** more time. (*but I don't have time*)
- EX2: **If I didn't want** to go to the party, I **wouldn't go**. (*but I want to go*)
- EX3: **If you were** in my position, what **would you do**?
- EX4: It's a pity he can't drive. It **would be useful** if he **could**.

If I knew ... I wish I knew ...

I WISH I KNEW

B



- ❖ We use the past in the same way after **wish** (I wish I knew / I wish you were etc.)
- ❖ We use **wish** to say that we regret something, that something is not as we would like it to be:
 - EX5: I **wish** I **knew** Paul's phone number.
(= I don't know it and I regret this)
 - EX6: Do you ever **wish** you **could** fly? (you can't fly)
 - EX7: It's very crowded here. I **wish** there **weren't** so many people.
(there are a lot of people)
 - EX8: I **wish** I **didn't have** to work tomorrow, but unfortunately I do.
- ❖ **Compare:**
 - EX9: I'm glad I live here. (I live here and that's good)
 - EX10: I **wish** I **lived** here. (I don't live here unfortunately)

If I knew ... I wish I knew ...

WOULD

E

C After **if** and **wish**, you can use **were** instead of **was** (if I were / I wish it were etc.). You can also use **was**. So you can say:

- EX11: If I **were** you, I **wouldn't buy** that coat. or *If I was you, ...*
- EX12: I'd **go** for a walk if it **weren't** so cold. or ... *if it wasn't so cold.*
- EX13: I **wish** Anna **were** here. or *I wish Anna was here.*

We do not usually say “if ... **would**”. We use **would** ('d) in the other part of the sentence:

- D**
- EX14: If I **were** rich, I **would** travel a lot. (not *If I would be rich*)
 - EX15: Who **would** you ask **if** you **needed** help? (not *if you would need*)

In the same way we say:

- EX16: I **wish** I **had** something to read. (not *I wish I would have*)
- EX17: I **wish** she **were** here now. (not *I wish she would be*)

❖ **Could** sometimes means “**would be able to**” and sometimes “**was/were able to**”:

- EX18: She **could** get a better job (*she could get = she would be able to get*) if she **could speak** another language. (*if she could speak = if she was able to speak*)
- EX19: I wish I **could** help you. (*I wish I could = I wish I was able*)

If I knew ... I wish I knew ...



BÀI TẬP NHANH

Select the option which best completes the sentences below:

I don't know many people (and I'm lonely). I wish I _____ more people.

A. will know

B. would know

C. know

D. knew

If I knew ... I wish I knew ...

TÓM TẮT

1. Cấu trúc câu **If I did something, I would** diễn tả một tình huống chúng ta tưởng tượng, không có thật hiện tại. Cấu trúc của câu điều kiện loại này là:

If + subject + past, subject + would + infinitive

If you were in my position, what would you do?

2. Cấu trúc câu **I wish ...** diễn tả tình huống chúng ta hối hận về một việc gì đó, một việc gì đó đã không diễn ra như chúng ta mong muốn. Cấu trúc của mẫu câu này là:

Subject + wish + subject + past

I wish I knew Paul's phone number.

3. Ở mệnh đề **if** và mệnh đề theo sau **wish**, chúng ta dùng **“were”** cho tất cả các ngôi nếu động từ là **“to be,”** mặc dù **“was”** cũng có thể được sử dụng cho các chủ ngữ số ít - *If I were you, I wouldn't buy that coat.*
4. Chúng ta không dùng **“would”** ở mệnh đề **if** và mệnh đề theo sau **wish**
5. **Could** vừa có nghĩa **“would be able to”** và **“was able to,”** nên trong một số tình huống phù hợp, có thể dùng ở mệnh đề **if** và mệnh đề sau **wish** - *She could get a better job if she could speak another language.*