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## Regrets

This writing and speaking activity teaches students to use the third conditional (unreal past conditionals) to invent speeches by famous people.

### Procedure

To begin the activity, give the students a few examples of speeches and ask them to guess who the person giving the speech could be.

### Examples speeches:

If I'd stayed with the band, I'd be rich and famous now. I wouldn't have left if we hadn't had a fight about the kind of music we were playing at the time.

Answer: A musician who left a band that later became very famous.

Of course, if I hadn't taken the money, I would still be a minister. But if that man hadn't told the journalists everything, nobody would have found out.

Answer: A politician who has been recently exposed in the press for taking a bribe.

If I hadn't moved away from the goal line, I would have been able to stop them scoring. We'd have won the league if I hadn't made that one mistake.

Answer: A goalkeeper recently in the news.

Of course, if I hadn't thought so much about things, everything wouldn't have ended so badly. Perhaps it would have been better if I'd stayed at university in Germany and not gone back to Denmark.

Answer: Hamlet

Divide the class into teams of two or three students.

Ask the teams to prepare a number of short, invented speeches that famous people (both living and dead) and fictitious and mythological characters could have said regretting actions they have done in the past.

Remind the students that they must use the third conditional structure.

When every team has finished writing their speeches, have them read out their speeches in turn.

After a team has read out a speech, have each team discuss who it could be and write down their answer. Explain that they should attempt an answer, even if they are not sure who the famous person is.

Then, ask the teams for their answers. Each team receives one point for each correct guess.

The team with the most points at the end wins.

