

-았/었더라면

if only I had ...

Imagines a past that did not happen. It is the counterfactual conditional, and it comes with a required partner at the other end of the sentence.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Last vowel ㅣ or ㅓ	-았더라면	가다 → 갔더라면
Any other vowel	-었더라면	먹다 → 먹었더라면
하다 verbs	했더라면	출발했더라면
Second clause	-았/었을 텐데	늦지 않았을 텐데요
Did not happen	counterfactual	unlike plain -(으)면
Regret alone	-(으)ㄹ 걸 그랬다	일찍 출발할 걸 그랬어요

WHEN TO USE IT

The vowel follows the -아요/어요 rule, then 더라면 is added: 갔더라면, 먹었더라면, 했더라면.

What it describes did not happen. That is the whole difference from a plain -(으)면, which leaves the possibility open.

The second clause is required and states the imagined result, normally with -았/었을 텐데 or -았/었을 것이다: 일찍 출발했더라면 늦지 않았을 텐데요.

Against -(으)ㄹ 걸 그랬다, this one is a full conditional that names the consequence, where 걸 그랬다 simply registers the regret.

IN USE

- 1 조금만 일찍 출발했더라면 늦지 않았을 텐데요.
If only we'd set off a little earlier, we wouldn't have been late.
- 2 그때 그 말을 하지 않았더라면 좋았을 텐데.
If only I hadn't said that at the time.
- 3 우산을 챙겼더라면 이렇게 젖지 않았을 거예요.
Had I brought an umbrella, I wouldn't have got this wet.
- 4 미리 알았더라면 도와드렸을 텐데 아쉽네요.
Had I known in advance I'd have helped — a shame.
- 5 직접 만들었더라면 비용이 훨씬 적게 들었을 것이다.
Had we made it ourselves, it would have cost far less.

6 그가 없었더라면 이 일은 불가능했을 겁니다.

Without him, this would have been impossible.

COMPARED WITH

-(으)면

-(으)면 leaves the condition open; -았/었더라면 states plainly that it did not occur.

일찍 가면 안 늦어요. (if you go early) / 일찍 갔더라면 안 늦었을 텐데. (had we gone early)

-(으)ㄹ 걸 그랬다

걸 그랬다 voices the regret on its own; -았/었더라면 builds a full conditional and names what would have followed.

일찍 갈 걸 그랬어요. (I should have gone early) / 일찍 갔더라면 안 늦었을 텐데요. (and then we'd not be late)

-았/었으면 좋겠다

Both use a past marker for something unreal, but 좋겠다 wishes about the present or future, while 더라면 looks back at the past.

비가 그쳤으면 좋겠어요. (I wish it would stop) / 안 왔더라면 좋았을 텐데. (if only it hadn't rained)

WATCH OUT

X 일찍 출발했더라면 늦지 않아요.

O 일찍 출발했더라면 늦지 않았을 텐데요.

The second clause has to be counterfactual too, normally -았/었을 텐데 or -았/었을 것이다.

X 내일 일찍 출발했더라면 좋겠어요.

O 내일 일찍 출발하면 좋겠어요.

-았/었더라면 looks back at something that did not happen. For a future condition, plain -(으)면 is correct.

X 일찍 출발하더라면 늦지 않았을 텐데요.

O 일찍 출발했더라면 늦지 않았을 텐데요.

The past marker is part of the construction. Without it the counterfactual reading is lost.