

Past Subjunctive

Unlike the present subjunctive with its conversational and literary forms, there is only ONE form of the past subjunctive. It is formed from the present subjunctives of **haben** and **sein** plus the PAST PARTICIPLE.

- 1. If a verb takes **haben** in the conversational past, it will use forms of **hätte** to form the past subjunctive:
Du hättest es gemacht. *You would have done it.*
- 2. If a verb takes **sein** in the conversational past, it will use forms of **wäre** to form the past subjunctive:
Er wäre nicht gekommen. *He wouldn't have come.*
- 3. The MODAL AUXILIARIES behave like any other verb when they occur WITHOUT a dependent infinitive:
Wir hätten das nicht gemocht. *We wouldn't have liked that.*
- 4. Modals WITH a dependent infinitive in the past subjunctive take the DOUBLE INFINITIVE construction:
Ich hätte nicht kommen können. *I wouldn't have been able to come.*
- 5. Note that it is the MODAL which is in the past subjunctive, not the infinitive, hence the auxiliary verb will ALWAYS be a form of **hätte** in such a construction.
- 6. Contrast the above with the present subjunctive:
Ich könnte nicht kommen. *I wouldn't be able to come.*
- 7. If a DOUBLE INFINITIVE occurs in a SUBORDINATE clause, the **hätte** or **wäre** forms do not go to the end of the clause:
Wenn du ihn nur hättest sehen können! *If you could only have seen him!*

Express in German

1. If only you hadn't done that!
2. If only you had been there!
3. If only you hadn't dressed so sloppily!
4. You would have had to stay here.
5. If we had known that, we wouldn't have bought the house.
6. If you had come earlier, we could have eaten together.
7. We would have bought the car if we had had the money.
8. You shouldn't have said that!
9. I wish I could have seen it!
10. If I had loved her, I would have married her.