

If only she would sell me her car this week, I would give her \$2000 more.
(Don't say: *If only she would sell me her car this week, I ~~will~~ give her \$2000 more*).

If only he would listen to me! (Don't say: *If only he ~~will~~ listen to me!*).

To talk about the present we use **if only + subject + V2/V-ed**, (NOT if only + subject + **V(s/es)**).

If only she knew the truth. (Don't say: *If only she ~~knows~~ the truth*).

If only I learnt to swim. (Don't say: *If only I ~~learn~~ to swim*).

If only Mary heard what they say about her behind her back. (Don't say: *If only Mary ~~hears~~ what they say about her behind her back*).

To talk about the past we use **if only + subject + had + V3**, (NOT if only + subject + **V2/V-ed**).

If only she had been at the meeting. (Don't say: *If only she ~~was~~ at the meeting*).

If only I had been sick tomorrow instead, I would have been happier. (Don't say: *If only I ~~were~~ sick tomorrow instead, I would have been happier*).

If only she had listened to what her friends had been telling her. (Don't say: *If only she ~~listened~~ to what her friends had been telling her*).

We say **He said that he was tired**, (NOT He said that **I** was tired or He said that he **is** tired).

He said that he was tired. (Don't say: *He said that ~~I~~ was tired or He said that he ~~is~~ tired*).

Mary said that she was very happy. (Don't say: *Mary said that ~~I~~ was very happy or Mary said that she ~~is~~ very happy*).

We say **He said that he would**, (NOT He said that he **will**).

Mary said that she would come back here next week. (Don't say: *Mary said that she ~~will~~ come back here next week*).

Tom said that he would start jogging again next week. (*Don't say: Tom said that he ~~will~~ start jogging again next week.*)

We say **try not to**, (NOT ~~try to not~~).

He tried not to show his surprise. (*Don't say: He ~~tried to not~~ show his surprise.*)

I tried not to laugh. (*Don't say: I ~~tried to not~~ laugh.*)

She tried not to look into his eyes. (*Don't say: She ~~tried to not~~ look into his eyes.*)

We say **had better + V₀**, (NOT had better + ~~To infinitive/V-ing~~).

We'd better go now before the traffic gets too bad. (*Don't say: We'd better ~~to go~~ now before the traffic gets too bad.*)

You'd better tell him everything. (*Don't say: You'd better ~~to tell~~ him everything.*)

We say **finish/admit/avoid/delay/postpone + V-ing**, (NOT finish + ~~To infinitive~~).

I've finished reading this book. (*Don't say: I've finished ~~to read~~ this book.*)

He admitted having stolen the money. (*Don't say: He admitted ~~to have~~ stolen the money.*)

Tom avoided doing his homework. (*Don't say: Tom avoided ~~to do~~ his homework.*)

Mary delayed writing her essay. (*Don't say: Mary delayed ~~to write~~ her essay.*)

Don't postpone doing what you love. (*Don't say: Don't postpone ~~to do~~ what you love.*)

We say **stop/prevent someone (from) doing something**, (NOT stop/prevent someone ~~to do~~ something).

She couldn't stop her baby from crying. (*Don't say: She couldn't stop her baby*

~~to cry~~).

I stopped her from killing herself. (*Don't say: I stopped her ~~to kill~~ herself*).

I can't prevent him from drinking. (*Don't say: I can't prevent him ~~to kill~~*).

She wants to prevent him from getting sick. (*Don't say: She wants to prevent him ~~to get~~ sick*).

We say **be used to + V-ing**, (NOT be used to + ~~V₀~~).

I am used to drinking coffee every morning. (*Don't say: I am used ~~to drink~~ coffee every morning*).

She is used to living alone. (*Don't say: She is used ~~to live~~ alone*).

We say **be accustomed to + V-ing**, (NOT be accustomed to + ~~V₀~~).

She's accustomed to sleeping in a room without air conditioning. (*Don't say: She's accustomed ~~to sleep~~ in a room without air conditioning*).

He is accustomed to eating this food. (*Don't say: He is accustomed ~~to eat~~ this food*).

Lie – lay – lain means **to be in a flat or horizontal position in which your body is on a surface such as a bed or a floor**.

Lay – laid – laid means **to put someone or something down gently or carefully**.

He just wants to lie in bed all day. (*Don't say: He just wants to ~~lay~~ in bed all day*).

She did nothing but lie in bed all day. (*Don't say: She did nothing but ~~laid~~ in bed all day*).

Now the exams are over, so I can lie in bed all day. (*Don't say: Now the exams are over, so I can ~~lay~~ in bed all day*).

I lay the book on the table. (*Don't say: I ~~lie~~ the book on the table*).

I lay the folders on the desk. (*Don't say: I ~~lie~~ the folders on the desk*).

We use **the least + uncountable nouns**

We use **the fewest + countable nouns**

She drank the least amount of milk of anyone there. (*Don't say: She drank ~~the fewest~~ amount of milk of anyone there*).

She tries to spend the least amount of time possible in the kitchen. (*Don't say: She tries to spend ~~the fewest~~ amount of time possible in the kitchen*).

Peter made the fewest mistakes in the English test. (*Don't say: Peter made ~~the least~~ mistakes in the English test*).

The safest place when driving is the place with the fewest cars. (*Don't say: The safest place when driving is the place with ~~the least~~ cars*).

We say **work as a salesman**, (NOT work **like** a salesman).

He works as a salesman. (*Don't say: He works ~~like~~ a salesman*).

Lucy works as a nurse in the local hospital. (*Don't say: Lucy works ~~like~~ a nurse in the local hospital*).

My father works as a teacher. (*Don't say: My father works ~~like~~ a teacher*).

We say **wait for a long time**, (NOT wait **long**).

I waited for a long time in the rain for the bus. (*Don't say: I waited ~~long~~ time in the rain for the bus*).

He has waited for a long time to have a chance to show his talent. (*Don't say: He has waited ~~long~~ time to have a chance to show his talent*).

We say **take a long time**, (NOT take **long**).

It took a long time for him to write the essay. (*Don't say: It ~~took long~~ for him to write the essay*).

The film took a long time to watch. (*Don't say: The film ~~took long~~ to watch*).

It takes a long time to learn Chinese. (*Don't say: It ~~takes long~~ to learn Chinese*).

We say **advice**, (NOT **advices**). **Advice** is **an uncountable noun**.

He gave me some good advice. (*Don't say: He gave me some good ~~advices~~.*)

She asked her father for some good advice. (*Don't say: She asked her father for some good ~~advices~~.*)

We say **information**, (NOT ~~informations~~). **Information** is an **uncountable noun**.

I need some information. (*Don't say: I need some ~~informations~~.*)

He has some information for me about flights to London. (*Don't say: He has some ~~informations~~ for me about flights to London.*)

We say **furniture**, (NOT ~~furnitures~~). **Furniture** is an **uncountable noun**.

I need to buy some furniture. (*Don't say: I need to buy some ~~furnitures~~.*)

My father used to make his own furniture. (*Don't say: My father used to make his own ~~furnitures~~.*)

We say **damage**, (NOT ~~damages~~). **Damage** is an **uncountable noun**.

The storm did not cause much damage. (*Don't say: The storm did not cause much ~~damages~~.*)

Did the accident cause any damage? (*Don't say: Did the accident cause any ~~damages~~?*)

We say **work**, (NOT ~~works~~). **Work** is an **uncountable noun** means a job or task need to be done.

Taking care of a baby is hard work. (*Don't say: Taking care of a baby is hard ~~works~~.*)

I have so much work to do now. (*Don't say: I have so much ~~works~~ to do now.*)

We say **fish**, (NOT ~~fishes~~). **Damage** is an **uncountable noun**.

There are a lot of fish in this lake. (*Don't say: There are a lot of ~~fishes~~ in this lake.*)

He ate a lot of fish. (*Don't say: He ate a lot of ~~fishes~~.*)

We say **fruit**, (NOT ~~fruits~~). **Fruit** is an **uncountable noun**.