

SHOULD HAVE - COULD HAVE - WOULD HAVE PAST CONDITIONAL LESSON GUIDE

When you want to say that you *should have done* something, *could have done* something, or *would have done* something in French you need to use the **past conditional** tense.

If you know how to form the **passé composé**, forming the French **past conditional** will be a breeze. In the passé composé one of the most important things to remember is **when to use avoir** as helping verb as opposed to using **être** as helping verb. The same is true when forming the past conditional. To form the past conditional you **follow all of the passé composé rules**. The only difference is that you need to put the helping verb ÊTRE or AVOIR in the **present conditional**.

You'll notice that I have highlighted the **DEVOIR** and **POUVOIR** forms as they're very important in this particular lesson.

Should have done something	Devoir in the past conditional + infinitive
Could have done something	Pouvoir in the past conditional + infinitive
Would have done something	Main verb in the past conditional + infinitive

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The word "would" does not exist all by itself in the French language, and when you want to say you "would have" done something you must put the main verb in the past conditional.

Lesson Highlights

Present conditional of ÊTRE & AVOIR

Je serais	J'aurais
Tu serais	Tu aurais
Il serait	Il aurait
Nous serions	Nous aurions
Vous seriez	Vous auriez
Ils seraient	Ils auraient

Examples from the lesson

ÊTRE - AVOIR is helping verb; past participle is **ÉTÉ**

J'aurais été

I would have been

J'aurais été heureux de te voir.

Tu aurais été

You would have been

Tu aurais été triste.

Il aurait été

He would have been

Il aurait été riche.

Nous aurions été

We would have been

Nous aurions été en France.

Vous auriez été

You would have been

Vous auriez été malheureux.

Ils auraient été

They would have been

Ils auraient été étonnés.

VOIR - AVOIR is helping verb; past participle is **VU**

J'aurais vu

I would have seen

J'aurais vu que tu étais heureux.

Tu aurais vu

You would have seen

Est-ce que **tu aurais vu** mes lunettes?

Il aurait vu

He would have seen

S'il avait mis ses lunettes, **il aurait vu** les oiseaux.

Nous aurions vu

We would have seen

Nous vous **aurions vu(e)(s)**.

Vous auriez vu

You would have seen

Vous auriez vu la mer.

Ils auraient vu

They would have seen

Ils nous auraient vu(e)s.

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More examples from the lesson

SORTIR - uses ÊTRE as helping verb; past participle is SORTI
Je serais sorti(e)
I would have gone out
Si j'avais su que tu étais sorti(e), je serais sorti(e) aussi.
Tu serais sorti(e)
You would have gone out
Est-ce que tu serais sorti(e) sans moi?
Il serait sorti
He would have gone out
Il serait sorti avec nous si on le lui avait dit.
Nous serions sortis
We would have gone out
Nous serions sortis si nous avions su que tu sortais.
Vous seriez sorti(e)(s)
You would have gone out
Vous seriez sorti(e)(s) de toute façon.
Ils seraient sortis
They would have gone out
Ils seraient sortis au restaurant.

SE COUCHER - uses ÊTRE as helping verb; past participle is COUCHÉ
Je me serais couché(e)
I would have gone to bed
Si j'avais été fatigué(e), je me serais couché(e) plus tôt.
Tu te serais couché(e)
You would have gone to bed
Si j'étais arrivée plus tôt, tu ne te serais pas couché(e) si tard.
Il se serait couché
He would have gone to bed
Il se serait couché dans son propre lit si les invités n'étaient pas arrivés.
Nous nous serions couchés
We would have gone to bed
Nous nous serions couchés tard si nous étions restés avec eux.
Vous vous seriez couché(e)(s)
You would have gone to bed

Would have been

I would have been	J'aurais été
You would have been	Tu aurais été
He - She - One would have been	Il - Elle - On aurait été
We would have been	Nous aurions été
You would have been	Vous auriez été
They would have been	Ils - Elles auraient été

Could have been

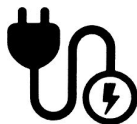
I could have been	J'aurais pu être
You could have been	Tu aurais pu être
He - She - One could have been	Il - Elle - On aurait pu être
We could have been	Nous aurions pu être
You could have been	Vous auriez pu être
They could have been	Ils - Elles auraient pu être

Should have been (there)

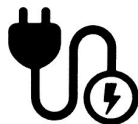
I should have been (there)	J'aurais dû y être
You should have been (there)	Tu aurais dû y être
He - She - One should have been	Il - Elle - On aurait dû y être
We should have been (there)	Nous aurions dû y être
You should have been (there)	Vous auriez dû y être
They should have been (there)	Ils - Elles auraient dû y être

ASTUCE DE JENNIFER
Review all of the **passé composé** rules and know the **present conditional** conjugations of the helping verbs **ÊTRE** and **AVOIR** by heart.

POWER VERBS: Vouloir, Pouvoir, Devoir



Once you've put these verbs in the past conditional, you can use them the same way you already have been doing. Just place an infinitive after them, et voilà!



VOULOIR

J'aurais voulu te voir.	I would have wanted to see you.
Tu aurais voulu tout manger.	You would have wanted to eat everything.
Il aurait voulu venir me chercher.	He would have wanted to come pick me up.
Nous aurions voulu faire du café.	We would have wanted to make some coffee.
Vous auriez voulu voyager.	You would have wanted to travel.
Ils auraient voulu rester.	They would have wanted to stay.

POUVOIR

J'aurais pu te voir.	I could have seen you.
Tu aurais pu tout manger.	You could have eaten everything.
Il aurait pu venir me chercher.	He could have come to pick me up.
Nous aurions pu faire du café.	We could have made some coffee.
Vous auriez pu voyager.	You could have traveled.
Ils auraient pu rester.	They could have stayed.

DEVOIR

J'aurais dû te voir.	I should have seen you.
Tu aurais dû tout manger.	You should have eaten everything.
Il aurait dû venir me chercher.	He should have come to pick me up.
Nous aurions dû faire du café.	We should have made some coffee.
Vous auriez dû voyager.	You should have traveled.
Ils auraient dû rester.	They should have stayed.