Language summary

Grammar

Second conditional

Main clause + *would*	*If* clause + simple past
I **would be** angry	**if** they **kept** me waiting.
She**'d feel** better	**if** he **admitted** his mistake.

• When the *if* clause comes before the main clause, it is followed by a comma.
  If they kept me waiting, I'd be angry.

Yes / no questions	Short answers Affirmative	Short answers Negative
Would he **feel** bad **if** she **gave** him a compliment?	Yes, he **would**.	No, he **wouldn't**.
Would you **say** something **if** you **saw** someone drop litter?	Yes, I **would**.	No, I **wouldn't**.

• Use the second conditional to describe "unreal" or imaginary situations.
• Use the contraction *'d* instead of *would*.
  If she gave me a compliment, I'd be happy.
• Do not use *would* in the *if* clause.
  If he invited me to the party, I wouldn't go.
  NOT *If he ~~would invite~~ me to the party, I wouldn't go.*

Past modals for hypothetical situations

Statements				
I	**should**	**have**	turned down	that request.
He	**shouldn't**	**have**	asked	for the favor.
She	**could**	**have**	offered	an explanation.
They	**would**	**have**	reached	a compromise.

Yes / no questions	Short answers Affirmative	Short answers Negative
Should I **have accepted** it?	Yes, you **should have**.	No, you **shouldn't have**.
Could he **have made** it?	Yes, he **could have**.	No, he **couldn't have**.
Would she **have come**?	Yes, she **would have**.	No, she **wouldn't have**.

• Use past modals to talk about hypothetical situations in the past.
• Use *should have* to talk about something that was a good idea, but didn't happen.
  I should have accepted that invitation. (I didn't accept it and now I regret it.)
• Use *could have* to talk about something that was possible in the past, but didn't happen
  He could have turned down the request. (It was possible to turn down the request, but he didn't.)
• Use *would have* to imagine something in the past that didn't happen.
  I would have accepted an apology.

Vocabulary

Polite and impolite behavior
admit a mistake
cut in line
drop litter
give a gift to say thank you
give someone a compliment
keep someone waiting
offer your seat
talk loudly in public

Word Partners
accept / turn down an invitation
agree with / disagree with an opinion
ask for / offer an explanation
ask for / return a favor
give / accept a compliment
make / offer an excuse
make / turn down a request
offer / accept an apology
reach / suggest a compromise

Functions

Expressing an expectation
It's the custom to . . .
You're supposed to . . .
You're expected to . . .

Acknowledging an expectation
I didn't realize that.
Oh, I didn't know that.
Oh, really? I wasn't aware of that.