UNIT 07. Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda (Lesson2)

- Idioms about the past
- Expressing regret & past advice
- Discussion questions
- Review

1. Collocations about the past

(1) What's done in done

- I could like to go back to college and change my major, but **what's dome is done**.
- Don't worry about it. **What's dome is done**, you can't change the past.

(2) Hindsight is 20/20

- I wish I hadn't quit my last job. It was better than the job I have now. I guess **hindsight is 20/20.**
- **Hindsight is 20/20**. There was no way to know about things before they happen, so don't feel so bad about it.

(3) live in the past

- He's **totally living in the past**. He should probably **get with the times** and update his taste in music.
- I've **been living in the past**, I can't stop thinking about my old high school days and what I would have liked to have done.

(4) slip one's mind

- It **slipped my mind**. I had completely forgotten it was birthday.
- Things tend to **slip my mind** so I often keep a schedule to keep appointments.

2. Expressing regret & past advice

(1) Regret about something you did

- Should + have + past participle
  - -I **should have brought** an umbrella.
  - -I **shouldn't have said** that, I have away the surprise.
  - -I **should have stayed** in Spain longer last year.

(2) Advice about something someone did or didn't do

- Should + have + past participle
  - -He **should have gone** overseas while he had the chance.
  - -She **shouldn't have said** that, now there will be trouble.

(3) Choices that were not made

- Could + have + past participle
  -You **could have brought** an umbrella, or **borrowed** one.
  -I **could have gone** to Japan instead of Korea.

- 'Could + not + have + past participle' is not used to show past choices.
  It is used for making a very certain guess about the past.

* Remember "Jack couldn't **have stolen the cookies**."

(4) Practice

-They **should have serviced** their car.
-She **could have called** a service technician.
-Maybe they **shouldn't have driven** so far.

- She **shouldn't have drunk** so much.
- She **should have stayed** with her friends.
- Maybe she **could have called** a taxi sooner.

- She **should have studied** much harder.
- She **shouldn't have hung out** with her friends all night.
- She **could have asked** the teacher for help.

3. Discussion questions

Q: Can you look back on a moment in your life when you said something you probably shouldn't have said?

I can remember when my brother's and I fought with each other. We all said things to each other that we **shouldn't have said**, but **what's done is done** and we have all forgiven each other.

Q: Is hindsight truly 20/20?

Maybe **hindsight isn't** always **20/20**, because some facts remain hidden forever and it's impossible to know which past decision you **could have made** that would have been better. There's no point always **living in the past** wishing things **could have been** different.

Q: Has anything ever slipped your mind?

Of course! There's things that **slip my mind** every day. I find that scheduling helps if it's not too strict, so that way I follow it without feeling burdened by it. I **should have started** scheduling my life sooner.