

# Lesson 14

Counterfactual

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Counterfactual events are those that never happen, such as “I wish you would have come”, “if he had not been late”, “they should have told their parents”, “you should not have gone to Iran”.

There is a special verb form in Balochi to express counterfactual events. Transitive and intransitive verbs are dealt with in two different ways.

# Counterfactual - intransitive verbs

The counterfactual verb form is formed by:

be-/ma- + past stem + én + person ending  
(OBS! be- can be omitted, but never ma-)

beshoténán	beshoténén
beshoténay	beshoténét
beshotén	beshoténant

This form is thus negated by the prefix ma-  
(mashotenán..)

# Counterfactual - transitive verbs

The counterfactual verb form is formed by:

be-/ma- + past stem + én (+3 PL ending)

The 3 PL ending is added when the direct object is in the plural  
(Note! be- can be omitted but never ma-)

man bekortén(ant)

má bekortén(ant)

taw bekortén(ant)

shomá bekortén(ant)

áiá bekortén(ant)

áyán bekortén(ant)

This form is thus negated by the prefix ma-  
(makortén(ant)..)

# Examples, intransitive verbs

Agan é jágahay badalá, taw dega bádsháhéay  
molká buténay...

If you had been in the land of another king  
instead of in this place...

(badalá=instead of, bádsháh=king, molk=land)

# Intransitive verbs

Agan taw edá bebuténay, mani brát namortagat.

If you had been here, my brother would not have died.

# Intransitive verbs, negated

Agan mayárig mabutén, má tayi kerrá nayáwort.

If he had not been guilty, we would not bring him to you.

(mayárig=guilty, kerrá=at the side of, to the side of)

With a direct object in the plural it would be:

Agan mayárig mabuténant, má tayi kerrá nayáwortant.

If they had not been guilty, we would not bring them to you.

# Transitive verbs

Agan taw mani nám Wájah Panchkosh maeshtén  
o á wasp o satá makorténant...

If you had not given me the name "Mr. Five-  
slayer" and had not praised me that much... (lit.  
had not done those praises...)

(panchkosh=five-slayer, ellag (esht)=to leave, to  
give a name, wasp=praise, satá=praise)

# Transitive verb, negated

Agan man sáh mán makortén, á hechbar mardomé nabut.

If I had not breathed life into her (lit. filled soul), she would never have become a person.

(sáh=soul, spirit, mán kanag=fill in, pour in, hechbar=never, mardom=person)

# Another area of use for this verb form

This verb form can also be used for constantly repeated events in the past tense or for general truths in the past tense.

Agan yak wahdé, shér o polang o yá gorkéá áyáni sará orosh bortén...

If at some time, a lion or a panther or a wolf would attack them... (which happened)

(shér=lion, polang=panther, gork=wolf, orosh barag=to attack)

(This sentence could also mean: If at some time, a lion or a panther or a wolf would have attacked them...(but this did not happen) ONLY CONTEXT decides what the intended meaning is.)