

Wishes and Regrets

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

We use wish/if only + past simple/continuous to talk about present situations which we want to be different.
We use wish/if only + past perfect to express regret, or to talk about things we wish had happened differently in the past.
We use wish/if only + would/wouldn't to complain about a situation, thing or person which is annoying us.

A. Read the sentences in bold below and decide whether they are referring to the present or the past. Write either 'present' or 'past' in the space provided.

- a. **I wish I was taller.** I'd love to be a supermodel.
- b. **I wish I had eaten breakfast.** I'm absolutely starving.
- c. **If only it would stop raining.** I want to go outside.
- d. The bus still hasn't arrived. **If only we had driven.**
- e. **I wish I was an only child.** My sister is so annoying.

B. Complete the sentences by circling the correct tense.

1. If only I *didn't eat* / *hadn't eaten* so much cake at the party. I feel quite ill now.
2. I wish I *lived* / *had lived* in the countryside. I'm fed up with city life.
3. I wish I *didn't shave* / *hadn't shaved* off all my hair. My head is cold.
4. If only our lessons *were* / *had been* shorter. They make me sleepy!
5. I wish he *stopped* / *would stop* coughing. It's really irritating.

C. Complete the sentences on the right so that they have the same meaning as the ones on the left.

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| 1. I would like to live alone. | I wish |
| 2. I hate my name. I want a different one. | If only |
| 3. I wasn't careful enough. I regret it. | I wish |
| 4. She bites her nails. It's annoying. | I wish |
| 5. Jen lied. Now she regrets it. | If only |

D. Complete the sentences using one of the verbs in the box below in the correct tense.

bring be not / come not / drink have
slow down not / be stop stay understand

1. Peter wishes his wife a better cook. She can't even make an omelette.
2. He's driving too fast. I wish he
3. I wish I by car. The roads are icy tonight, and parking was expensive.
4. Sally wishes she a garden. She'd love to grow her own vegetables.
5. I wish I so much coffee today. I'll never get to sleep.
6. I wish he calling me. I don't want to speak to him.
7. If only I Japanese. If I did, I'd know what they were talking about.
8. We wish our parents so strict. They don't let us do anything.
9. If only the bar open later. I don't think I'll make it before closing time.
10. I wish I an umbrella with me. It's pouring!

E. Read the prompts below and complete the sentences next to them with your own endings. Write about:

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| 1. A superpower you would like to have. | I wish |
| 2. A possession you would like to own. | I wish |
| 3. Something you regret doing as a child. | I wish |
| 4. Something you wish a family member wouldn't do. | I wish |
| 5. A country you would like to live in. | I wish |
| 6. Something you wish you had done in the past. | I wish |
| 7. A regret about a purchase you made. | I wish |
| 8. A skill you would like to have. | I wish |
| 9. Something you wish was different about your home. | I wish |
| 10. Something about yourself you would like to change. | I wish |

Ask your partner questions to find out what their endings to the sentences were, (e.g., 'What superpower would you like to have?', 'What do you wish a family member wouldn't do?') and find out if any of your endings were similar.