

WISH

A

You can say 'I wish you luck / all the best / a happy birthday' etc. :

- ☐ I wish you **all the best** in the future.
- ☐ I saw Mark before the exam and **he wished me luck**.

We say 'wish somebody *something*' (**luck / a happy birthday** etc.). But you cannot say 'I wish that something *happens*'. We use **hope** in this situation. For example:

- ☐ I'm sorry you're not well. I **hope** you **feel** better soon. (*not* I wish you feel)

Compare **I wish** and **I hope**:

- ☐ I **wish** you **a pleasant stay** here.
- ☐ I **hope** you **have** a pleasant stay here. (*not* I wish you have)

B

We also use **wish** to say that we regret something, that something is not as we would like it.

When we use **wish** in this way, we use the *past* (**knew/lived** etc.), but the meaning is *present*:

- ☐ I **wish** I **knew** what to do about the problem. (I don't know and I regret this)
- ☐ I **wish** you **didn't** have to go so soon. (you have to go)
- ☐ Do you **wish** you **lived** near the sea? (you don't live near the sea)
- ☐ Jack's going on a trip to Mexico soon. I **wish** I **was** going too. (I'm not going)

To say that we regret something in the past, we use **wish + had ... (had known / had said)** etc. :

- ☐ I **wish** I'd **known** about the party. I would have gone if I'd known. (I didn't know)
- ☐ It was a stupid thing to say. I **wish** I **hadn't said** it. (I said it)

For more examples, see Units 39 and 40.

C

I wish I could (do something) = I regret that I cannot do it:

- ☐ I'm sorry I have to go. I **wish** I **could stay** longer. (but I can't)
- ☐ I've met that man before. I **wish** I **could remember** his name. (but I can't)

I wish I could have (done something) = I regret that I could not do it:

- ☐ I hear the party was great. I **wish** I **could have gone**. (but I couldn't go)

D

You can say 'I wish (somebody) **would** (do something)'. For example:



It's been raining all day. Tanya doesn't like it. She says:
I wish it would stop raining.

Tanya would like the rain to stop, but this will probably not happen.

We use **I wish ... would** when we would like something to happen or change. Usually, the speaker doesn't expect this to happen.

We often use **I wish ... would** to complain about a situation:

- ☐ The phone has been ringing for five minutes. I **wish** somebody **would answer** it.
- ☐ I **wish** you'd **do** (= you **would** do) something instead of just sitting and doing nothing.

You can use **I wish ... wouldn't ...** to complain about things that people do repeatedly:

- ☐ I **wish** you **wouldn't keep** interrupting me. (= please don't interrupt me)

We use **I wish ... would ...** to say that we want something to happen. But we do not use **I wish ... would ...** to say how we would like things *to be*. Compare:

- ☐ I **wish** Sarah **would** come. (= I want her to come)
- but I **wish** Sarah **was (or were)** here now. (*not* I wish Sarah would be)

- ☐ I **wish** somebody **would buy** me a car.
- but I **wish** I **had** a car. (*not* I wish I would have)

Exercises

41.1 Put in wish(ed) or hope(d).

- I wish you a pleasant stay here.
- Enjoy your holiday. I hope you have a great time.
- Goodbye. I hope you all the best.
- We said goodbye to each other and wished each other luck.
- We're going to have a picnic tomorrow, so I hope the weather is nice.
- I hope you luck in your new job. I hope it works out well for you.

41.2 What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with I wish ... would ...

- It's raining. You want to go out, but not in the rain.
You say: I wish it would stop raining.
- You're waiting for Jane. She's late and you're getting impatient.
You say to yourself: I wish
- You're looking for a job – so far without success. Nobody will give you a job.
You say: I wish somebody
- You can hear a baby crying. It's been crying for a long time and you're trying to study.
You say:
- Brian has been wearing the same clothes for years. You think he needs some new clothes.
You say to Brian:

For the following situations, write sentences with I wish ... wouldn't ...

- Your friend drives very fast. You don't like this.
You say to your friend: I wish you
- Joe leaves the door open all the time. This annoys you.
You say to Joe:
- A lot of people drop litter in the street. You don't like this.
You say: I wish people

41.3 Are these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- I wish Sarah would be here now. I wish Sarah were here now.
- I wish you would listen to me.
- I wish I would have more free time.
- I wish our flat would be a bit bigger.
- I wish the weather would change.
- I wish you wouldn't complain all the time.
- I wish everything wouldn't be so expensive.

41.4 Put the verb into the correct form.

- It was a stupid thing to say. I wish I hadn't said it. (I / not / say)
- I'm fed up with this rain. I wish it would stop. (it / stop)
- It's a difficult question. I wish the answer. (I / know)
- I should have listened to you. I wish your advice. (I / take)
- You're lucky to be going away. I wish with you. (I / can / come)
- I have no energy at the moment. I wish so tired. (I / not / be)
- Aren't they ready yet? I wish . (they / hurry up)
- It would be nice to stay here longer. I wish to go now. (we / not / have)
- When we were in London last year, we didn't have time to see all the things we wanted to see.
I wish longer. (we / can / stay)
- It's freezing today. I wish so cold. I hate cold weather. (it / not / be)
- Joe still doesn't know what he wants to do. I wish . (he / decide)
- I really didn't enjoy the party. I wish . (we / not / go)