

I wish, If only and alternatives

Compare these sentences:

What a pity she isn't here!
I wish she were/was here.

What a pity we can't afford it!
I wish we could afford it.

Why don't you do as you're told?
I wish you would do as you're told.

What a pity he won't/doesn't take your advice!

If only he would take your advice.

It's a pity we arrived too late to say goodbye to her.

I wish we hadn't arrived too late to say goodbye to her.

You should have listened to your uncle. (Then this wouldn't have happened.)

I wish you'd listened to your uncle. (Then this wouldn't have happened.)

Rewrite the sentences below without changing the meaning, beginning with **I wish** or **If only**.

1. What a pity she's so busy!
I wish _____
2. What a pity they don't get on better!
I wish _____
3. It's a pity they didn't advertise the post more widely.
If only _____
4. You should have chosen the best candidate for the job.
I wish _____
5. Why they don't promote people on merit, not according to sex?
I wish _____
6. What a pity you can't see him making a fool of himself!
I wish _____
7. What a pity they won't accept that they make mistakes!
If only _____
8. You shouldn't have argued with him. It never does any good.
I wish _____
9. Why do you always interrupt me when I'm talking at the office meeting?
I wish _____
10. It's a pity they moved to the office outside the city.
I wish _____