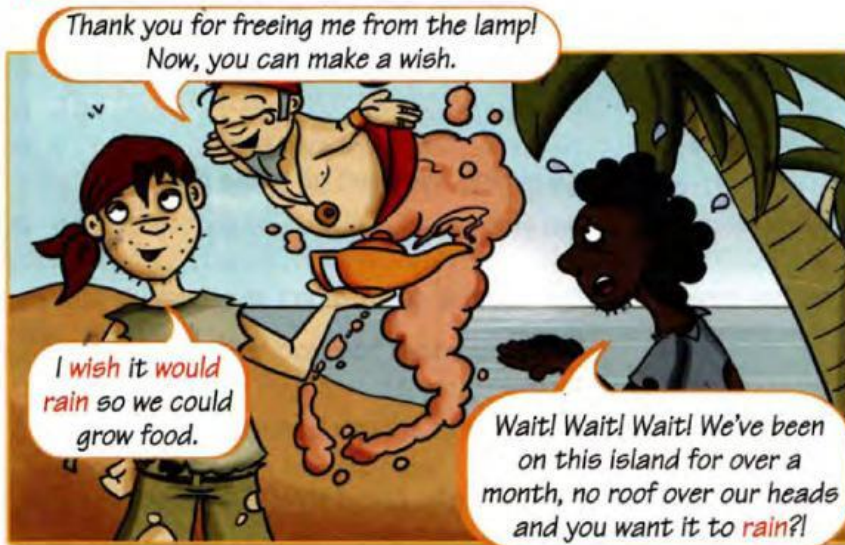


7

Conditionals – Wishes



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



	Form	Use
wish / if only (regret about the present)	+ past simple / past continuous	regret about a present situation which we want to be different
<i>I wish / If only I were/was more patient. (But I'm not patient.)</i>		
wish / if only (wish / regret about the present)	+ subject + could + bare infinitive	wish or regret in the present
<i>I wish / If only I could ride a bicycle. (But I can't.)</i>		
wish / if only (wish for a future change)	+ subject + would + bare infinitive (a. 'wish' and 'would' should have different subjects. We never say: I wish I would; He wishes he would , etc. b. wish + inanimate subject + would is used to express the speaker's lack of hope or disappointment.)	wish for a future change unlikely to happen or wish to express dissatisfaction; polite request implying dissatisfaction or lack of hope
<i>I wish he would study for his exams. (But I don't think he will. – wish for a future change unlikely to happen)</i> <i>I wish Jane would go to university. (Jane has refused to do so and I'm unhappy about it. – dissatisfaction)</i> <i>I wish it would stop snowing. (It's unlikely to stop snowing but I wish it would.)</i> <i>I wish you would be quiet. (I don't expect you will be quiet but I'm asking anyway. – request implying lack of hope)</i>		
wish / if only (regret about the past)	+ past perfect	regret that something happened or didn't happen in the past
<i>I wish / If only I had gone to Ann's party last night. (But I didn't.)</i>		
In wishes, we go one tense back. This means that we use past simple in the present and the past perfect in the past. I'm poor. I wish I were rich. (past) / I lost my watch yesterday. I wish I hadn't lost it. (past) After wish and if only we can use were instead of was in all persons. I wish / If only I was/were taller.		

- 13 Match the captions 1–6 to the pictures A–F. Then rewrite the statements as wishes.



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 "I'm sorry. I didn't see the red light."
I wish <u>I had seen the red light.</u></p> <p>2 "The lectures are so boring."
I wish</p> <p>3 "I'd prefer to be out with my friends."
I wish</p> | <p>4 "I'm so sad I failed my test."
I wish</p> <p>5 "She gives me so much work to do."
I wish</p> <p>6 "I can't understand what he's saying."
I wish</p> |
|---|--|

- 14 Using the bold type in the sentences, write wishes as in the example:

- You are leaving for the airport. **You can't find your passport.**
You say: "I wish I could find my passport."
- You live in the suburbs. **You prefer the city centre.**
You say:
- You argued with your friend yesterday.** Today she is upset.
You say:
- You didn't clean your bedroom** and your mother is angry.
You say:
- You want to go on holiday but **you can't afford it.**
You say:

- 15 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

Dear Auntie Claire,

I feel so unhappy. I wish we 1) ..hadn't moved.. (**not/move**) to London. If only Mum and Dad 2) (**give**) it some more thought before they decided to come here. Everything is so different. First of all, it's always cold and wet. I wish it 3) (**not/keep**) raining all the time. Secondly, I really miss my old friends. I wish my new classmates 4) (**be**) friendlier – it would make things a lot easier. Finally, I feel really alone. If only there 5) (**be**) someone here I could talk to.

Do you think there is anything I can do to make myself feel better? Please help.

Thanks for any advice,
Emma

7

Conditionals – Wishes

16 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: If only the sun ..*would come*.. (come) out.
B: Cheer up. I don't think it's going to rain much longer.
- 2 A: I wish you (tidy) your room.
B: I'm busy with my homework right now. I'll do it later.
- 3 A: I wish I (not/lend) Bill my laptop.
B: You mean he hasn't returned it to you yet?
- 4 A: I wish I (know) how to use a computer.
B: Don't worry. I'll show you.
- 5 A: If only I (learn) to ride a bike when I was younger.
B: Don't worry. You can learn now!
- 6 A: Is Layla going with you to LA?
B: No, she wishes she (come) but she can't get time off work.
- 7 A: If only Jessica (talk) to me.
B: She's still upset. Give her time.
- 8 A: If only I (not/leave) the gate open.
B: Don't worry. I'm sure we'll find your dog.
- 9 A: Your teacher says she wishes you (pay) more attention in class, Alex.
B: OK Mum. I'll try.
- 10 A: I wish you (be) here, Anna. I feel so sad!
B: Cheer up! I'll be with you tomorrow.
- 11 A: If only I (be/accepted) into Oxford University.
B: Don't be sad. You are going to love it at Glasgow University.
- 12 A: I wish the children (stop) shouting.
B: I'll tell them to be quiet.

17 Read the speech bubbles and make sentences as in the example:

- 1 It's snowing outside. I'm cold. I should have worn a hat and some gloves.
I wish ... *I had worn a hat and some gloves...*
If *I had worn a hat and some gloves, I wouldn't be cold now.*

- 2 I'm late for school. I should have got up earlier.
I wish
If

- 3 I can't buy a bicycle. I didn't save any money.
I wish
If

- 4 I burnt my finger. I shouldn't have touched the cooker.
I wish
If

- 5 I can't answer the questions. I should have studied for the test.
I wish
If