

## GRAMMAR

### HYPOTHETICAL CONDITIONAL: PAST

2 Circle the correct options to complete the text.

#### Regrets – just a few

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, 'The only time you really live fully is from thirty to sixty. The young are slaves to dreams; the old [are] servants of regrets.' Indeed, it's often claimed that young people wish they <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the things they did and old people regret not doing the things they didn't do.

A very informal poll among friends and acquaintances for this column reveals that people generally regret <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (more) children, choosing the wrong career and missing out on the man or woman of their dreams. Then there are the odd, individual cases.

A close friend said, 'I wish <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ become a vegetarian earlier. <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ I done so, over the years I'd have saved about 400 chickens, 50 pigs and 30 cows.'

Another pal said, 'If I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ such an idiot when I was eighteen, I'd never have had this tattoo done. Imagine spending your whole life with a picture of your ex-girlfriend on your arm. If only it <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Mother Teresa or someone who deserves to be there!'

I spoke to an ex-professional footballer whose career was cut short by injury. 'If I'd been smarter, I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ put all my eggs in one basket. I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ at least finished school. Aged twenty-seven, I had no qualifications apart from kicking a ball.'

Of my elderly contacts, about half wished <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ followed their passion instead of taking the safe option. One grandfather-of-fifteen said, 'I might <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ a good actor, but at the time I had a big family to support and acting isn't a secure profession. So I became a bank clerk and spent the rest of my life cashing other people's cheques.'

As an antidote to all this doom and gloom, another friend cheerfully said, 'Regrets? If only we <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ how good life is.' Then he told me that people should make lists of all the friends they've had, the places they've seen, the things they've enjoyed. 'I wish everyone <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the good things in life!' he said and drained his cup of tea in one gulp.

- 1 a) hadn't been doing b) hadn't done c) are doing  
d) have done
- 2 a) to have b) of not having c) not having  
d) not to have
- 3 a) I was b) I'm c) I've d) I'd
- 4 a) If b) Had c) Have d) Should
- 5 a) hadn't been b) had been c) didn't be  
d) not been
- 6 a) were b) was being c) 's been d) wasn't
- 7 a) didn't b) wouldn't c) wouldn't have  
d) would have
- 8 a) have b) must have c) would d) 'd have
- 9 a) they'd b) they c) they did d) they'd been
- 10 a) have been becoming b) have become  
c) had become d) become
- 11 a) realise b) can realise c) realised  
d) are realising
- 12 a) has appreciated b) is appreciating  
c) appreciates d) would appreciate

**3 Match 1–8 with a)–h) to make sentences.**

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|---|---|
| 1 We wouldn't have got here so early had we         | a) would you have accepted?                         |
| 2 They would have lost the match but                | b) you have got home?                               |
| 3 Supposing you'd been offered a part in that film, | c) not being nicer to Mandy.                        |
| 4 Tom wouldn't be sitting here right now if         | d) hadn't said those things to Mum.                 |
| 5 If only the Johnsons had never                    | e) I hadn't pulled him through that window.         |
| 6 Imagine you'd really lost your ticket, how would  | f) for Thomson's goal at the end.                   |
| 7 I think all of us regret                          | g) known you weren't going to be here until 6.00.   |
| 8 I really wish I                                   | h) bought that house, they wouldn't be in debt now. |

## VOCABULARY PLUS

### METAPHORS

**5 Sentences 1–8 each have a word missing. Complete the sentences with the words in the box.**

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|--|--|
| 1 I hate exams in which you just have to <sup>regurgitate</sup> the teacher's ideas. | 5 I find a lot of his theories rather hard swallow.                                  |
| 2 Although she was at the peak her career, she decided to take a year off.           | 6 When I joined the company, my boss said, 'You'll far.'                             |
| 3 My tennis has gone as I've got older.  | 7 This report says human cloning is only a few years away. Hmm, that's food thought. |
| 4 I was a crossroads in my career so I had to make a move.                           | 8 He emails me with these ridiculous half-baked on how to improve the business.      |