

Present wish → wish + past simple (about now)



I don't live in a big city. (my reality)

I wish I **lived** in a big city. (imaginary situation)

I'm not a celebrity.

I wish I **was / were**. (both possible)

Past regret → wish + past perfect (about before)

We didn't visit la Pedrera when we were in Barcelona last year.

If only we **had visited** la Pedrera when we were in Barcelona last year.



Present wishes / regrets - practice

1. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- a) I wish I _____ more free time. (have)
- b) She wishes she _____ closer to her friends. (live)
- c) We wish we _____ so much homework. (not / have)
- d) He wishes he _____ how to drive. (know)
- e) I wish it _____ so cold today. (not / be)
- f) She wishes she _____ in a more creative job. (work)

Past wishes / regrets

2. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- a) I wish I _____ harder for the exam. (study)
- b) She wishes she _____ that during the argument. (not / say)
- c) If only he _____ more money. (save)
- d) They wish they _____ the flight. (not / miss)
- e) She wishes she _____ a different university. (choose)
- f) If only we _____ more photos on that trip. (take)

Express a wish using the auxiliary only

We can also express a wish using the auxiliary only, without the main verb e.g.

I don't understand this exercise.	→ I wish I <u>did</u> .
She isn't feeling confident today.	→ She wishes she <u>was</u> .
We can't stay longer.	→ We wish we <u>could</u> .
I didn't revise enough for the exam.	→ I wish I <u>had</u> .

Rewrite the sentences using wish + auxiliary verb only.

He doesn't have enough experience.	→ He wishes he _____.
They aren't prepared for the test.	→ They wish they _____.
She said the wrong thing at the meeting.	→ She wishes she _____.
We arrived too late.	→ We wish we _____.
He forgot to save the document.	→ He wishes he _____.
They didn't follow the instructions.	→ They wish they _____.
I'm not more organised.	→ I wish I _____.
She can't speak in public confidently.	→ She wishes she _____.
We didn't book the tickets earlier.	→ We wish we _____.
He isn't more patient.	→ He wishes he _____.
They didn't take more photos.	→ They wish they _____.