

If only

We use *if only* when we talk about situations that we would like to be different than they are. After *if only*, we use the past simple if we are referring to the present, or we use the past perfect if we are referring to the past. In the other part of the sentence, for the present, we often use *would/could* and the infinitive without *to*, and for the past, we often use *would/could have* and the past participle of the verb.

If only I remembered my mom's phone number, I would be able to call her using my friend's phone.

If only I hadn't lost my phone, I could have called her.

1 Match the sentence halves.

- 1 If only I had remembered all the answers,
- 2 If only I could ski,
- 3 If only I had enough money,
- 4 If only I lived in an English-speaking country,
- 5 If only my parents weren't so interested in everything I do,
- 6 If only I had played soccer better last year,



- a I would be able to buy a new computer game.
- b I wouldn't have to answer so many questions!
- c I would have gotten 100 on the test.
- d I would enjoy a vacation in the mountains.
- e I would be on the team.
- f I would be fluent in English!

4 What are the people thinking? Write sentences with *if only*. Use the words in parentheses as clues.



(money / car)



(bathing suits / swim in pool)



(umbrella / clothes not wet)



(taller / go on ride)