WISH

A

You can say '**I wish you luck / all the best / a happy birthday**' etc. :

- **I wish you all the best** in the future.
- I saw Mark before the exam and **he wished me luck**.

We say 'wish somebody *something*' (**luck / a happy birthday** etc.). But you cannot say 'I wish that something *happens*'. We use **hope** in this situation. For example:

- I'm sorry you're not well. **I hope** you **feel** better soon. (*not* I wish you feel)

Compare **I wish** and **I hope**:

- **I wish** you **a pleasant stay** here.
- **I hope** you **have** a pleasant stay here. (*not* I wish you have)

B

We also use **wish** to say that we regret something, that something is not as we would like it. When we use **wish** in this way, we use the *past* (**knew/lived** etc.), but the meaning is *present:*

- **I wish I knew** what to do about the problem. (I don't know and I regret this)
- **I wish** you **didn't** have to go so soon. (you have to go)
- Do you **wish** you **lived** near the sea? (you don't live near the sea)
- Jack's going on a trip to Mexico soon. **I wish I was** going too. (I'm not going)

To say that we regret something in the past, we use **wish + had** ... (**had known / had said**) etc. :

- **I wish I'd known** about the party. I would have gone if I'd known. (I didn't know)
- It was a stupid thing to say. **I wish I hadn't said** it. (I said it)

For more examples, see Units 39 and 40.

C

I wish I could (**do** something) = I regret that I cannot do it:

- I'm sorry I have to go. **I wish I could stay** longer. (but I can't)
- I've met that man before. **I wish I could remember** his name. (but I can't)

I wish I could have (**done** something) = I regret that I could not do it:

- I hear the party was great. **I wish I could have gone**. (but I couldn't go)

D

You can say '**I wish** (somebody) **would** (do something)'. For example:



It's been raining all day. Tanya doesn't like it. She says: **I wish** it **would stop** raining.

Tanya would like the rain to stop, but this will probably not happen.

We use **I wish** ... **would** when we would like something to happen or change. Usually, the speaker doesn't expect this to happen.

We often use **I wish** ... **would** to complain about a situation:

- The phone has been ringing for five minutes. **I wish** somebody **would answer** it.
- **I wish** you**'d do** (= you **would** do) something instead of just sitting and doing nothing.

You can use **I wish** ... **wouldn't** ... to complain about things that people do repeatedly:

- **I wish** you **wouldn't keep** interrupting me. (= please don't interrupt me)

We use **I wish** ... **would** ... to say that we want something to happen. But we do not use **I wish** ... **would** ... to say how we would like things *to be*. Compare:

- **I wish** Sarah **would** come. (= I want her to come)

but **I wish** Sarah **was** (*or* **were**) here now. (*not* I wish Sarah would be)

- **I wish** somebody **would buy** me a car.

but **I wish I had** a car. (*not* I wish I would have)

Diane Cámus Flores
ESL Teacher/TESOL

English Program
Chilquinta

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

41.1 **Put in wish(ed) or hope(d).**

1 I wish you a pleasant stay here.
2 Enjoy your holiday. I ..... you have a great time.
3 Goodbye. I ..... you all the best.
4 We said goodbye to each other and ..... each other luck.
5 We're going to have a picnic tomorrow, so I ..... the weather is nice.
6 I ..... you luck in your new job. I ..... it works out well for you.

41.2 **What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with I wish ... would ... .**

1 It's raining. You want to go out, but not in the rain.
You say: I wish it would stop raining.
2 You're waiting for Jane. She's late and you're getting impatient.
You say to yourself: I wish .....
3 You're looking for a job – so far without success. Nobody will give you a job.
You say: I wish somebody .....
4 You can hear a baby crying. It's been crying for a long time and you're trying to study.
You say: .....
5 Brian has been wearing the same clothes for years. You think he needs some new clothes.
You say to Brian: .....

For the following situations, write sentences with I wish ... wouldn't ... .

6 Your friend drives very fast. You don't like this.
You say to your friend: I wish you .....
7 Joe leaves the door open all the time. This annoys you.
You say to Joe: .....
8 A lot of people drop litter in the street. You don't like this.
You say: I wish people .....

41.3 **Are these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.**

1 I wish Sarah would be here now. I wish Sarah were here now.
2 I wish you would listen to me. .....
3 I wish I would have more free time. .....
4 I wish our flat would be a bit bigger. .....
5 I wish the weather would change. .....
6 I wish you wouldn't complain all the time. .....
7 I wish everything wouldn't be so expensive. .....

41.4 **Put the verb into the correct form.**

1 It was a stupid thing to say. I wish I hadn't said it. (I / not / say)
2 I'm fed up with this rain. I wish it would stop. (it / stop)
3 It's a difficult question. I wish ..... the answer. (I / know)
4 I should have listened to you. I wish ..... your advice. (I / take)
5 You're lucky to be going away. I wish ..... with you. (I / can / come)
6 I have no energy at the moment. I wish ..... so tired. (I / not / be)
7 Aren't they ready yet? I wish ..... . (they / hurry up)
8 It would be nice to stay here longer. I wish ..... to go now. (we / not / have)
9 When we were in London last year, we didn't have time to see all the things we wanted to see. I wish ..... longer. (we / can / stay)
10 It's freezing today. I wish ..... so cold. I hate cold weather. (it / not / be)
11 Joe still doesn't know what he wants to do. I wish ..... . (he / decide)
12 I really didn't enjoy the party. I wish ..... . (we / not / go)

LIVEWORKSHEETS