

WHAT ARE YOUR REGRETS?

WRITE YOUR EXAMPLES DO NOT REPEAT VERBS.



1

GRAMMAR EXPRESSING REGRETS ABOUT THE PAST

Wish + the past perfect

I **wish** I **had bought** a smart bike. And I **wish** I **hadn't bought** this car!
Do they **wish** they **had joined** a gym instead of buying that treadmill?
Don't you **wish** the store **had had** the uPhone a month ago?
Why does Ann **wish** she **had gotten** the more expensive model?

2

Should have or ought to have + past participle

I **should have waited** to buy a food processor – I **ought to have waited** to buy a food processor.

Note: American English speakers use **should have**, not **ought to have**, in negative statements and in questions.

He **shouldn't have bought** the shoes in size 40. NOT He **ought-not-to-have-bought** the shoes in size 40.
Should you **have sold** your house? NOT **Ought-you-to-have-sold** your house?

3

If only + the past perfect

Express very strong regret with **If only + the past perfect**. You can also use **If only** in a past unreal conditional statement and include a result clause.

If only I had bought an underwater camera! (regret: I wish I had.)

If only we hadn't bought that car! (regret: We wish we hadn't.)

If only I had bought an underwater camera, I **would have taken** pictures of the coral reef.

1

2

3