

What are your regrets?

Write your examples do not repeat verbs.



1

D 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