

Wishes and Regrets

USE PAST:

When we make a wish or regret about a **present situation**, we use a second conditional structure:

To refer to a **present** situation that the speaker is unhappy about = **past simple**

*I **wish** I **were** thinner.*

*He **wishes** the power station **were** far from the city*

✓ We can also use the phrase "**if only**" to express the same idea:

*If only I **had** more money!*

*If only she **had** a better job*

USE PAST PERFECT SIMPLE:

When we regret about a **past situation** = **past perfect**

*I wish I **had studied** harder at school when I was a teenager.*

*If only we **had seen** that special offer yesterday.*

USE WOULD + BASE FORM:

To COMPLAIN about something (generally others) = **would**

I wish people **wouldn't feed** the animals