

Oooh, a puppy! Oooh, a great car! Oooh, a trip to the place of my dreams! Oooh, my favorite food! Oooh, a gorgeous pair of sunglasses! Oooh!...

Things and people sing a siren's song to you. How do you express your desire for them?

We have a few ways to do that in English:



hope – want – wish – would – would like – would rather

First, you have to decide how real the possibility is *for you*, and then how polite you'd like to be. Before we look, together, is your inner feeling right in English? CLICK ON, DRAG, & DROP these into the boxes to see.

want	would	wish	would like	hope	would rather
IMPOSSIBLE	LESS POSSIBLE; CONTINGENT !!!!	LESS POSSIBLE; CONTINGENT	POSSIBLE; CONTINGENT	POSSIBLE & POLITE	POSSIBLE & FRANK

Do this before going ahead !

2. Before we sort out possibility and politeness, let's look at form. Three of these need to be followed by the infinitive with *to*. Do you know which ones? CLICK ON, DRAG and DROP these onto the right lines (O.K., a fourth one CAN take the infinitive with *to*, if you're Prince Charles or Queen Elizabeth):



want

would rather

would

wish

would like

hope

INFINITIVE WITH *TO*
for everybody

INFINITIVE WITH *TO*
in formal British English

INFINITIVE, *NO* *TO*
for everybody





3. Make a few sentences, now. CHOOSE the right answers in the pulldown menus:

- a.) He _____ to Iceland to see the northern lights.
b.) She _____ that, soon.
c.) They _____ in the choir, if they could.
d.) He _____ the manager, please.
e.) We _____ our favorite music instead of muzak.
f.) I _____ than go for a walk, any day!



4. Let's look at possibility and politeness, now. Do you think you've got it? CLICK/CHOOSE the right answer:

- a.) "good idea"; little chance: They _____ skiing, but the snow might be bad.
b.) "bad idea"; polite refusal: If the truth be told, I _____ shopping.
c.) "good idea"; neutral: I _____ clothes shopping, today; how about you?
d.) "good idea"; conditions: She _____ with you, if she got off work in time.
e.) "good idea"; can't: She _____ she could help you, but her hands are tied.
f.) "good idea"; polite: I _____ clothes shopping, today; how about you?
g.) "alternate idea"; polite preference: In all honesty, I _____ cards.



5. What if you want to make questions? Ask yourself, 'Are the verbs in Star's Verb Group n. 1 (*to be*, modals, *have* as an auxiliary AND the "Dennis the Menace" *have* for possession in BrE, which goes into Group 2 if there is an object) or Group n. 2 (ALL other verbs, including *to have* for possession in AmE). One group INVERTS the subject-verb; the other group uses DO. CLICK ON, DRAG & DROP these (TRICK: extra lines!):



_____	want	_____
_____	hope	_____
_____	would	_____
_____	wish	_____

do

6. So, what's the neutral version of that "Queen Elizabeth" verb? Let's see if you know before we go ahead. CLICK on the pulldown menus, and CHOOSE the right answer (WATCH OUT! There are tricks!):

a.) Sam _____ go to the Bahamas for vacation, but he's broke.

b.) David _____ just be quiet for once.



(AFTER answering, CLICK on the pulldown menu, read the hint, & CHOOSE IT for a free point): HINT

7. We can also use that same verb to express REGRET or ANNOYANCE, but the sentence structure changes! Put (or assume, in a less formal style) *that* after its conjugated form, and start a new phrase. You try!

ANNOYANCE +/- : I wish (that) you'd stop yelling! I wish (that) you wouldn't start yelling! He wishes (that) she had come earlier! He wishes (that) she hadn't been so late! We all wish (that) they hadn't come at all!

REGRET +/- : I wish (that) I had gone to India, earlier! I wish (that) I hadn't waited so long to go to India! He wishes (that) you had said that! He wishes (that) you hadn't said that! We all wish (that) they weren't leaving!

a.) I wish (that)(positive) (UNGRADED)

b.) I wish (that)(positive) (UNGRADED)

c.) I wish (that)(negative) (UNGRADED)

d. I wish (that)(negative) (UNGRADED)

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