

A. Read the two introductions:

Hi, I am Anna. I am 41 years old. I live in Fremantle, Australia. I have recently discovered the joy of travel after encouragement from my parents. I want to start going overseas at least twice a year. Because I like travelling, I am also interested in learning languages. Right now, I am trying to start a new career, but my choices are limited with a Bachelor of Arts in ancient history.



Hi, I am Bill. I am 30 years old. I teach English in Cesena, Italy. I love living here and prefer it much more than my home country of Canada. The only thing I really miss about Canada are the great English language bookstores. If I wasn't teaching English, I would probably be performing on stage. I have a great voice.

B. Who do you think expressed each wish or regret below? Anna or Bill? Decide if each wish or regret is about the past or present.

1. I wish I had travelled more when I was younger.
2. If only I had moved abroad earlier.
3. I wish I were famous. I'm a great singer!
4. If only I could speak a second language.
5. I wish I could find something good to read
6. If only I had listened to my parents more.

C. Read the grammar rules and use the verbs in brackets to complete the example sentences.

➤ To talk about a present situation you would like to change or be different, use "I wish" or "If only" + the past simple.

1. I wish my office (not be) so far away.
2. If only I (know) how to speak Mandarin.
3. I wish I (can) be there for you now.

➤ To talk about something you would like to have happened differently in the past, use "I wish" or "If only" + past perfect.

4. If only I (listen) to her more when we were married.
5. I wish I (not eat) so many chips last night.
6. If only I (follow) your advice.