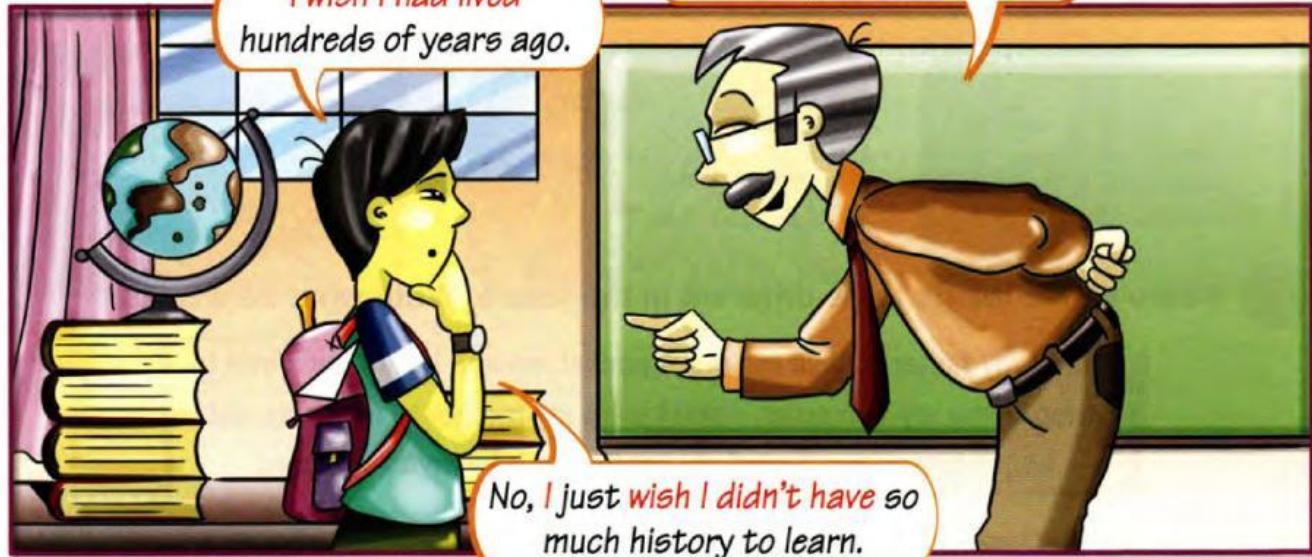


## Wishes



30 Listen and repeat. Then act out.



- **I wish (if only) + Past Simple** (wish about the present)  
We express a wish about a present situation which we want to be different.  
I wish he **were/was** with us now.
- **I wish (if only) + subject + could + bare infinitive** (wish about the present)  
We use this pattern for a wish or regret in the present concerning lack of ability.  
I wish he **could** learn faster.
- **I wish (if only) + subject + would + bare infinitive** (wish about the future)  
(we never say: I wish I **would**)  
We express a wish for a change in the future.  
I wish they **would** build a new library.
- **I wish (if only) + Past Perfect** (regret about the past)  
We express a regret or a wish that something happened or didn't happen in the past.  
I wish he **hadn't failed** his test.
- **If only** means the same as 'I wish' but it is more emphatic.  
I wish he could help me. **If only** he could help me. (stronger, more emphatic)
- After 'I wish' we may use 'were' instead of 'was' in all persons.  
I wish I **was/were** rich.

## 1 Ann doesn't like her new house. Write what she wishes.

The house is so old and dirty. She has to paint it. The house doesn't have central heating. The kitchen is small.

1 I wish the house wasn't/weren't so old and dirty.

2

3

4

## 2 Pedro wants things to be different in the future. Write what he wishes.

I want my father to give me more pocket money. I want my sister to stop using my computer. I don't want my mother to make me eat vegetables. I don't want my brother to take my skateboard.

1 I wish my father would give me more pocket money.

2

3

4

## 3 Ted regrets what he did or didn't do. Write what he wishes.

Ted was naughty in class. He didn't hear the teacher's question. She got angry with him. The teacher wrote a note to his parents.

1 I wish I hadn't been naughty in class.

2

3

4

## 4 a) Read the wishes. Which refers to the: present? future? past?

1 If only I was famous. .... *present* ....

2 I wish I hadn't lost the game. ....

3 I wish I could come with you. ....

4 I wish it would stop raining. ....

## b) Write similar sentences about yourself.

5 Write what each person wishes. Then fill in: *wish about the present, regret about the past, wish about the future*.

1 He broke his leg.



I wish I hadn't.....  
broken my leg.....  
(regret about the  
past).....

4 He didn't go to football practice yesterday.



7 He talks too much and she doesn't like it.



2 Laura plays her music very loud.



3 It's raining.



5 He crashed his dad's car last night.



6 She can't type fast. She won't get the job.



8 His car is very old but he can't buy a new one.



9 He stayed out late last night.

