



Listen and repeat. Then act out.



Wishes

	Form	Use
I wish (if only) (wish/regret about the present)	+ past simple / past continuous	wish/regret about a present situation we want to be different
I wish you studied more. (It's a pity you don't.)		
I wish (if only) (wish/regret about the present)	+ could + bare infinitive	wish/regret in the present concerning lack of ability
I wish I could drive a car. (But I can't.)		
I wish (if only) (regret about the past)	+ past perfect	regret that something happened or didn't happen in the past
I wish I had taken your advice. (But I didn't. It's a pity I didn't take it.)		
I wish (if only) (impossible wish for a future change)	+ subject + would + bare inf. (a. 'wish' and 'would' should have different subjects. We never say: I wish I would, He wishes he would, etc b. wish + inanimate subject + would is used to express the speaker's lack of hope, or disappointment)	wish for a future change unlikely to happen or wish to express dissatisfaction; polite request implying dissatisfaction or lack of hope
I wish he would drive more carefully. (But I don't think he will. – wish for a future change unlikely to happen) I wish the children would be more co-operative. (The children have refused to co-operate. – dissatisfaction) I wish you would be more patient with Jim. (Please be more patient with him. – request implying lack of hope) I wish it would stop raining. (But I'm afraid it won't stop raining. – wish implying disappointment)		

- In wishes we go one tense back. This means that we use the past simple in the present or the past perfect in the past. He's ill. He wishes he **weren't** ill. (present)
I overslept yesterday. I wish I **hadn't overslept** yesterday. (past)
- After I wish we can use **were** instead of **was** in all persons. I wish I **was/were** richer.
- If only means the same as I wish but it is more dramatic. If only I **was/were** richer.

- 15 Read what Conrad says, then write what he wishes, as in the example.



- I didn't check the forecast.
- It has been raining all day.
- My tent is leaking; I can't fix it.
- I didn't buy a good tent.
- The mosquitoes are biting me.
- I didn't bring any insect repellent.

- 1 *I wish I had checked the forecast.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

- 16 Fill in the gaps with an appropriate auxiliary/modal verb.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 She can't type but she wishes she <i>could</i> | 9 She won't accept help but I wish she |
| 2 They didn't buy the antique vase but they wish they | 10 They haven't got any pets but they wish they |
| 3 I'm not going to the concert but I wish I | 11 I didn't see the programme but I wish I |
| 4 I'm not very tall but I wish I | 12 She's not qualified enough for the job but she wishes she |
| 5 I didn't go to the meeting but I wish I | 13 He can't afford to buy her a diamond ring but he wishes he |
| 6 I can't tell him the truth but I wish I | 14 I don't live close to the office, but I wish I |
| 7 I don't earn much money but I wish I | 15 She hasn't got a fax machine but she wishes she |
| 8 He probably won't listen but I wish he | |

- 17 Match the items in column A with those in column B to make complaints, using **would/wouldn't**. Then, decide which person from the list is making each complaint.

• librarian • zoo-keeper • actor • doctor • shop manager • journalist • referee

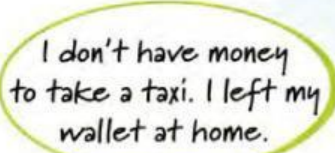
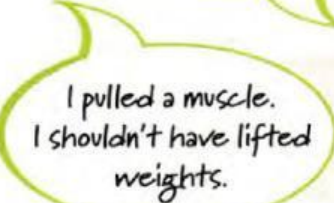
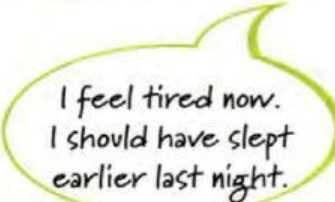
A		B	
1 ☐ c	I wish readers	a (eat) healthily.	1 <i>librarian</i>
2 ☐	If only the politician	b (play) fairly.	2
3 ☐	I wish my patients	c (not write) on the books.	3
4 ☐	If only the audience	d (arrive) at work on time.	4
5 ☐	I wish my staff	e (not talk) during the play.	5
6 ☐	If only the teams	f (not feed) the animals.	6
7 ☐	I wish visitors	g (answer) my questions about the economy.	7

I wish readers wouldn't write on the books.

18 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: I wish I ...*could speak*... (speak) another language.
B: It's never too late. You could take an evening course.
- 2 A: If only I (train) harder for the race.
B: Well, you can compete again next year.
- 3 A: I wish I (not/give) George the money.
B: Don't worry; he will pay you back soon.
- 4 A: I wish Bill (tell) us why he's so sad today.
B: Maybe he just needs some time alone.
- 5 A: I wish you (take off) your dirty boots at the door.
B: Sorry. I'll try to remember next time.
- 6 A: I wish I (wear) my heavy coat. I feel really cold now.
B: It's not your fault. The weather forecast said it would be sunny.
- 7 A: If only my children (be) more helpful with the housework.
B: You should give them some chores to do.
- 8 A: If only it (stop) snowing.
B: I know. It makes driving very dangerous.

19 Read the speech bubbles and make sentences, as in the example.

- 1  I wish *I hadn't left my wallet at home,*
If *I hadn't left my wallet at home, I would have money to*
take a taxi.
- 2  I wish
If
- 3  I wish
If
- 4  I wish
If