

# Grammar Practice

## Hypothetical meaning: Wish / If only, Further structures.

Read the theory and solve.

### Wish / If only

**70a** Complete the messages from a message board on the Internet. Use the correct form of the verbs in the box.

be   ~~can~~ / ~~learn~~   can / study   live   not do   start   stop

Locool

I really admire people who can draw and paint but I can't draw even the simplest things. If only I  
(0) ..... **could learn** ..... to draw!

Alexis

I'd gained weight, my clothes didn't fit and I didn't like myself. But since I started running every morning, I feel a lot better about myself. I wish I (1) .....  
taking regular exercise a long time ago!

Li

I come from a family of lawyers and my parents expect me to carry on the tradition, so even though I really wish I  
(2) ..... information technology next year, I'll get a law degree first.

Melanie

My alarm went off at six this morning. I must have switched it off and gone back to sleep so I was late for an exam. I wish I (3) ..... such a stupid thing!

timfromnowhere

Nothing exciting ever happens in my town and I get so bored! If only I (4) ..... in a city like London or Brighton, I'd be so much happier.

Scott

I wish my parents (5) ..... complaining about the way I dress. I wish I (6) ..... more patient with them too.

**70b** Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using the word in bold. Use between two and five words.

- 0 It is a pity I have to go to school today. **wish**  
I ..... **wish I didn't** ..... have to go to school today.
- 1 I am disappointed that he didn't call me. **only**  
If ..... me.
- 2 I regret leaving my last job. **had**  
I wish ..... my last job.
- 3 Please stop criticising me all the time! **would**  
I wish ..... me all the time.
- 4 I am sorry we can't afford a new car. **could**  
If only ..... a new car.
- 5 It is a shame we haven't got more time together. **had**  
If ..... more time together.
- 6 I regret not finishing my university degree. **I**  
I wish ..... my university degree.

## Other structure for hypothetical meaning

**71** Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs in the box.

be (x2) book go grow learn  
not go not leave not say ring tell win

- 0 It's time you ..... *rang* ..... your parents. You haven't spoken to them for ages!
- 1 Sometimes you speak to me as if I ..... a child and it annoys me!
- 2 I'd rather we ..... out tonight. I'm not feeling well.
- 3 It sounds as though she ..... ill. I hope she gets better soon.
- 4 I'd rather you ..... anything to my parents about my exam results – I wanted to tell them myself.
- 5 Isn't it time they ..... their parents they're planning to get married?
- 6 You're talking as if you ..... the game when I know you lost it.
- 7 How can I tell my housemate I'd rather he ..... all of the cooking to me? It's high time he ..... how to cook for himself!
- 8 Sometimes Maribel acts as if money ..... on trees!
- 9 It's July already and it's high time we ..... our holiday. I'm afraid we may have left it too late.
- 10 They don't want to go by themselves. They'd rather we ..... with them to show them the way.



*Teacher Daniela.*