

## wish

We use the verb **wish** to talk about situations which are not real, but which we would like to be real. We use **wish** with different tenses and modals depending on what we want to say.

| Use   | Tense / modal                  | Example  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| To express wishes about now or generally                            | wish + past simple             | Carl <b>wishes</b> he <b>had</b> a telescope.<br>I wish I <b>wasn't</b> scared of spiders.   |
| To express wishes about the past                                    | wish + past perfect simple     | Tracy <b>wishes</b> she'd <b>seen</b> that programme about the moon last night.<br>I wish they <b>hadn't cut down</b> so many trees.       |
| To criticise other people, or to complain about something           | wish + would + bare infinitive | I <b>wish</b> people <b>would throw</b> their litter in the bin and not on the ground!<br>I <b>wish</b> you <b>wouldn't smoke</b> in here. |
| To express wishes about ability and permission now or in the future | wish + could + bare infinitive | I <b>wish</b> I <b>could travel</b> through time!<br>David <b>wishes</b> he <b>could come</b> with us, but his parents won't let him.      |

## Helpful hints

- When we use **wish** + past simple, we can say **I/he/she/it was ...** or **I/he/she/it were ...** **Were** is more formal than **was**.
  - ✓ I wish I **was** an astronaut. (more informal)
  - ✓ I wish I **were** an astronaut. (more formal)
- We can use the phrase **if only** in the same way as **wish**.
  - ✓ If only I **was/were** an astronaut.

## Watch out!

- We don't use **would** for wishes about ourselves.
  - ✓ I wish I **lived** on Mars.
  - ✗ ~~I wish I **would live** on Mars.~~
- We use **wish** for situations that aren't real. If there is a possibility that something will happen in the future, we don't use **wish**, but we can use **hope**.
  - ✓ I **hope** it doesn't snow tomorrow.
  - ✗ ~~I **wish** it doesn't snow tomorrow.~~

## A Complete using the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

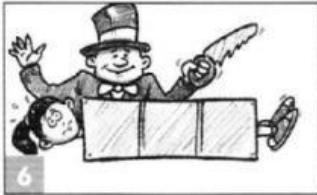
- I wish I ..... (**have**) a million euros! I'd buy lots of great things.
- I wish we ..... (**live**) in a bigger house. This one is too small.
- Becca wishes she ..... (**be**) old enough to drive a car.
- Do you wish you ..... (**feel**) more confident about the exam tomorrow?
- I wish my computer ..... (**not / be**) broken. I can't check my e-mail.
- I wish I ..... (**not / like**) chocolate so much! I eat three bars a day!
- Grant wishes he ..... (**not / make**) so many mistakes all the time.
- Look what they're wearing! I bet they wish they ..... (**not / look**) so silly!

## B Complete using the correct form of the verbs in the box. You may have to use some negative forms.

feel • give • have • live • spend • wear

- I wish I ..... in the countryside. The city is so noisy!
- Tracy has got curly hair but she often wishes she ..... straight hair.
- I wish our teachers ..... us less homework every day, but there's nothing I can do about it.
- I wish I ..... so scared, but I do!
- Do you wish you ..... contact lenses or are you happy with glasses?
- Jake's mum wishes he ..... so much money on clothes whenever he goes shopping.

## C Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.



- I wish I ..... (**win**).
- I wish I ..... (**listen**) to my mother.
- I wish we ..... (**bring**) a camera with us.
- I wish I ..... (**study**) a bit harder for this test.
- I wish I ..... (**not / make**) so many phone calls last month!
- I wish he ..... (**not / choose**) me!

**D** The words in **bold** in each sentence are wrong. Write the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I wish I **can** speak German, but I never learnt it at school.
- 2 I wish you **will** put your toys away! It's not difficult!
- 3 Do you sometimes wish you **can** fly?
- 4 I wish you **won't** lie to me all the time!
- 5 I wish the neighbours **won't** make so much noise.
- 6 If only she **will** ask me to go to the disco with her!
- 7 If only you **can** come with us!

**E** Choose the correct answer.

**F** Circle the correct word or phrase.

**26<sup>th</sup> April 3500**

I wish today (1) **has / had** never happened! If only I (2) **could / would** start the day again, I'd do everything differently. Why did I forget to set the alarm last night? I really wish I (3) **haven't / hadn't** done that! I also wish I (4) **live / lived** nearer the Earth. It takes such a long time to get there from Mars – especially when the traffic is bad. (5) **If only / Only if** I (6) **have / had** a faster spaceship. Anyway, the point is, I was late for my job interview. The first question they asked was why I wanted to be an Environmental Officer on the moon. Do you know what I said? Because I really wanted to look at the aliens in the Super Alien Zoo. Oh, I wish I (7) **didn't say / hadn't said** that. Why am I so stupid? I (8) **wish / hope** now that I'd never applied for the job in the first place. I'm sure I won't get the job. I just (9) **wish / hope** tomorrow is better than today was.