

**We use *I wish* or *If only* with the past simple when we want to talk about a present situation that we would like to be different.**

Example: I wish / If only I were a millionaire. (I'm not a millionaire, but I want to be)

**A. Complete the statements with the verbs from the box in their past simple form.**

fall	bring	have	know	accept	be	live	own
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1. I wish I ..... a different job. I don't like the one I have now.

2. If only I ..... near the sea. I love to swim.

3. I wish Antonio ..... in love with me. I like him so much.

4. If only Pedro ..... my apology.

5. It's cold today. I wish it ..... warmer.

6. If only I ..... a boat. We could go sailing.

7. It looks like it's going to rain. If only I ..... an umbrella.

8. I wish I ..... the answer, but I don't.



**B. Change each sentence into a wish about the present.**

Example: I want to speak English fluently.

*I wish I spoke English fluently.*.....

1. I want to be allowed to go on holiday with my friends.

I wish .....

2. I want to have a bigger TV.

If only .....

3. I want to live in a palace.

I wish .....

4. I want to have curly hair.

If only .....

5. I want to look more handsome.

I wish .....

6. I want to live with my brother.

If only .....

**We use *I wish* or *If only* with the past perfect when we talk about a situation in the past that we regret.**

Example: I wish / If only I had taken that job as an actress many years ago.

**C. Complete the regrets with the past perfect form of the verbs in brackets.**

1. I wish I ..... (wake up) early this morning because I was late for work.
2. If only I ..... (go) to Greece for my last holiday.
3. I wish I ..... (not make) so much food. Nobody ate it!
4. If only I ..... (buy) a faster car. This one is too slow!
5. I wish I ..... (do) my homework earlier.
6. If only I ..... (learn) a second language as a child.

**D. Now, write about four things from your past that you regret.**

1. I wish .....
2. If only .....
3. I wish .....
4. If only .....

**E. Read each statement and decide if it is about the present or past by underlining the answer in brackets.**

1. I wish I had taken a longer holiday. (present / past)
2. If only I had listened to my parents. (present / past)
3. I wish I were good at magic. (present / past)
4. If only I worked in the city. (present / past)
5. I wish I were better at cooking. (present / past)
6. If only I hadn't left my phone at the park. (present / past)
7. I wish I knew how to fix my computer. (present / past)
8. If only I had met my best friend years ago. (present / past)
9. I wish I were interested in sports. (present / past)
10. If only I had read more books as a child. (present / past)

