

## I wish / If only

**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.**

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| 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) |

