

Lesson 7B

GRAMMAR | *wish, if only, should have*

VOCABULARY | idioms: regrets

PRONUNCIATION | chunking in idioms

VOCABULARY

idioms: regrets

1 A Match the idioms in the box with the descriptions (1–6).

a blessing in disguise back to the drawing board
a piece of cake miss the boat
not be someone's cup of tea
the grass is always greener on the other side

- 'Oh, that exam was so much more straightforward than I expected. I bet I get 100 percent.'
- 'I'm sorry, the auditions for the play took place yesterday.'
- 'I missed the audition but it's turned out for the best because I've been offered something better.'
- 'I made the switch from opera to classical singing, but it's not as much fun.'
- 'I think I need to re-consider my career options. Acting hasn't worked out for me.'
- 'I'm not going to see a musical again – that was awful!'

B Choose the correct word to complete the sentences.

- A:** How's it going with your band?
B: Our singer left to join another band. He thought the grass was _____ on the other side.
a better **b** greener **c** whiter
- A:** Hey! How was your exam?
B: It was a piece of _____ – I actually finished half an hour early!
a cake **b** bread **c** pie
- A:** I've missed the _____ – I should've kept an eye on when the deadline was.
B: There'll be other jobs to go for, don't worry.
a boat **b** bus **c** timetable
- A:** Fancy coming to see the play tonight?
B: No, it's not my cup of _____.
a tea **b** water **c** coffee
- A:** Did you do the swimming competition?
B: No. But it was a blessing in _____ because I had a rest and now I'm making great progress.
a a suit **b** clothes **c** disguise
- A:** Why are you deleting your work?
B: I've decided to go back to the _____ board. It just wasn't good enough.
a notice **b** drawing **c** white

PRONUNCIATION

2 A 7.02 | chunking in idioms | Listen and complete the sentences.

- I always found driving _____, right from my first lesson.
- Missing the concert was _____ – I had an early night instead.
- Icelandic death metal _____, I'm afraid!
- _____ – I can tell you that for sure.
- The funding fell through, so I had to _____.
- Sandra _____ because she didn't apply in time.

B 7.02 | Listen again and repeat the sentences. Remember to say the idioms as chunks.

GRAMMAR

wish, if only, should have

3 A Choose the correct word or phrase to complete the sentences.

- I wish I **had** / **I'd had** / **I have** more to eat this lunchtime. I'm hungry again already.
- If **only we lived** / **we live** / **we'd lived** nearer the city – we'd be able to go shopping more.
- You **shouldn't only have** / **shouldn't have** / **should have** told me about the party. I'd have gone.
- I wish you **will** / **do** / **would** stop talking while my favourite programme's on!
- If **only I had** / **I hadn't** / **I'd have** brought my guitar with me. I need to practise for the gig.
- I should have** / **shouldn't have** / **wouldn't have** let you down. I'm sorry.

B Complete the article about regrets with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.


'It's better to regret the things you have done than the things you haven't.' That's what they say. But is there any truth to the matter?

Compare the following: 'I wish I ¹ _____ (not try) to climb Mount Everest and fulfil a dream,' and 'If only I ² _____ (work) harder at school, I ³ _____ (have) a better job now.' Which of these are you more likely to hear? The second, because there's nothing you can do about it now. On the other hand, even if you'd failed to reach the top of Everest, at least you'd have given it a go.


However, we do regret some things that we've done. Think about these situations: 'I shouldn't ⁴ _____ (speak) to my friend like that', 'If only I ⁵ _____ (not crash) the car', 'I wish I ⁶ _____ (not eat) so much food. These definitely aren't the same as climbing Everest.

Perhaps the old saying isn't as wise as it sounds!

LISTENING

4A  **7.03** | Listen to three people talking about regret. Match the speakers (1–3) with their regrets (a–c).

- a I regret not knowing about something I could have done as a job.
- b I regret not pursuing an academic subject I was good at.
- c I regret not taking a risk with an uncertain career.

B  **7.03** | Listen again and put the events into the correct order for each speaker.

Speaker 1

- a taking qualifications
- b learning something few other people did at the time
- c making a decision

Speaker 2

- a enjoying something very much
- b rejecting a particular route
- c being creative

Speaker 3

- a feeling relatively satisfied with a decision
- b opting for a particular course of study
- c being unaware that something was an option



The grass is sometimes greener on the other side

¹People who spend a lot of time scrolling through other people's online profiles (myself included) often can't help comparing their own lives with those of the people they're following.

²We usually compare ourselves negatively: 'He's got a better job than I have', 'She has a better social life than me', and so on. It's easy to feel that the grass is greener on the other side, but most of the time it isn't: it's just people's desire to show off that leads them to post only the positive aspects of their lives.

³I've fallen into this trap myself. I used to spend hours looking at what people were doing and feeling fed up of my own life. I didn't consider the things I had that *they* might envy, such as *my* job, or my close relationship with my family.

⁴Then one day, I suddenly thought, maybe I can use this information to make positive changes in my own life! 'I must be able to improve my own career', I thought. 'Why don't I look harder for budget holidays? Maybe I should join that sports club I've been thinking about for so long.'

⁵So, I did just that. I gained an extra qualification that helped me get promoted. I went backpacking round my country; and I joined the sports club and made new friends!

⁶Although it's tempting to see other people's successes as your failures, there's always time to make positive changes in your own life.

WRITING

a personal essay

5A Read the title of the article. What information do you think the article might include?

- a a regretted decision
- b an unexpected realisation
- c a new course of action

B Skim the article quickly and check.

C Read the article again and match the topics (a–f) with the paragraphs (1–6).

- a the main event
- b the theme of the article
- c a summary
- d more details about the main event
- e a consequence
- f a good decision was made

D Plan an article of your own with one of the following titles.

- The grass is greener on the other side
- The grass isn't greener on the other side

1 Think about an event that has led to you thinking that the grass is/isn't greener on the other side (use your imagination if you prefer).

2 Use the paragraph plan in Ex 5C and the model answer. Think about what information you will include in each paragraph.

E Write your article using your notes. Write at least 140 words.