



# SPORTING BLUNDERS



## PAST WISHES & REGRETS · "I wish" / "If only" + past perfect

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Grammar zone

To talk about a **regret about the past**, use **wish + past perfect** (had / hadn't + past participle).  
**If only** means the same thing but sounds *more dramatic*: If only he had scored!

**Fill each gap.** Conjugate (*wish*) where you see it, and put the verb in brackets into the past perfect.

1. Even today, Brazilian fans \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) their team  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*not lose*) that final at home in 1950.
2. If only Diana Ross \_\_\_\_\_ (*not miss*) the open goal from two metres at the 1994 opening ceremony!
3. Roberto Baggio \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) he \_\_\_\_\_ (*not blast*) his penalty high over the bar in the 1994 final.
4. Zinedine Zidane \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) he \_\_\_\_\_ (*keep*) his cool instead of headbutting an opponent in 2006.
5. Irish fans \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) the referee \_\_\_\_\_ (*see*) Thierry Henry's obvious handball in 2009.
6. If only goal-line technology \_\_\_\_\_ (*exist*) when Frank Lampard's shot clearly crossed the line in 2010!
7. Algeria's players \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) West Germany and Austria  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*play*) a fair match in the 1982 "Disgrace of Gijón".
8. If only Jean van de Velde \_\_\_\_\_ (*play*) it safe on the final hole instead of ending up in the water in 1999!
9. Greg Norman \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) he \_\_\_\_\_ (*not throw*) away a six-shot lead at the 1996 Masters.
10. Chris Webber \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) he \_\_\_\_\_ (*not call*) a timeout his team didn't have in the 1993 final.
11. If only the ball \_\_\_\_\_ (*not roll*) between Bill Buckner's legs in the 1986 World Series!

12. Buffalo fans \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) Scott Norwood's kick  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*not go*) "wide right" in the 1991 Super Bowl.
13. If only Leon Lett \_\_\_\_\_ (*not celebrate*) too early before he  
even reached the end zone in 1993!
14. Lindsey Jacobellis \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) she \_\_\_\_\_ (*not  
show off*) just before the line, because she fell and lost gold in 2006.
15. If only Usain Bolt \_\_\_\_\_ (*not move*) too soon and caused a  
false start at the 2011 World Championships!
16. South African fans \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) Herschelle Gibbs  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*hold*) onto the catch instead of "dropping the World  
Cup" in 1999.
17. If only Jana Novotná \_\_\_\_\_ (*not collapse*) when she was  
winning the 1993 Wimbledon final!
18. The jockey still \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) his horse Devon Loch  
\_\_\_\_\_ (*not jump*) at nothing just before the winning post in  
1956.
19. The English team \_\_\_\_\_ (*wish*) they \_\_\_\_\_  
(*take*) the "amateur" USA side more seriously before losing 1–0 in 1950.
20. If only Roy Riegels \_\_\_\_\_ (*not run*) the wrong way with the  
ball in front of everyone in 1929!