Wishes and Regrets

1. Discuss



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Discuss the following with a partner.

1. On your own, put these in order of importance from 1 to 5.

   ..... family ..... wealth ..... health ..... friends ..... hobbies

2. Compare your list with a partner and discuss the differences.

2. To Wish Something

A. Complete the sentences using stative verbs.

You can use 'wish' to say that you feel sad about your state or condition now or talk about something that you would like to be different in the present or future that is impossible or very unlikely.

	Situation		Wish (that)	Subject	Past simple	
e.g.	I live in the country.	I	wish (that)	I	lived	in the city.
1.	I think I'm too short.	I				
2.	I am 15kgs overweight.	I				
3.	I have very curly hair.	I				
4.	I am destitute.	I				

B. Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use 'could' for possibility or ability.

e.g. Something you would like to buy: I wish that I could buy a better car.

1. Somewhere you would like to go: I wish .....
2. Something you would like to have: I wish .....
3. Something you wish you could do: I wish .....
4. Something you would like to be: I wish .....

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C. Use a suitable verb in the past perfect to complete the sentences.

You can use the past perfect form to talk about something that you feel sorry about that happened in the past. We call this feeling regret.

e.g. I wish that I hadn't bought this computer. It isn't very fast.

1. I wish that I _____ so much last night.

2. I wish that I _____ to bed so late last night.

3. I wish that I _____ English more when I was in High School.

4. I wish that I _____ my favorite cup. I have to buy a new one now.

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3. 'If only' and The Third Conditional

A. Read the information and complete the sentences.

'If only' can be used to express a strong desire that something could be different in the past, present, or future. In this activity we focus on the event we regret happened (or failed to happen) in the past and is impossible to change.

	If only	Past perfect	I	would (not)	Present perfect	Object
e.g.	If only	I had won the lottery,	I	would	have bought	a car.

You did not win the lottery; therefore, you didn't buy a car.

1. If only I had woken up earlier, ...

You did not wake up early; therefore, you missed your train.

2. If only I hadn't slept in my English class, ...

You did sleep in your English class; therefore, you failed the test.

B. Finish these sentences with your own ideas. Use would, could, or might.

1. If only I had earned more money last year, I .....
2. If only I hadn't dropped out of University, I .....
3. If only I hadn't sold my Bitcoin 5 years ago, I .....
4. If only I had been more outgoing when I was young, I .....

C. Read the parts of John's story. Put the parts in the correct order 1-5.

a. ____ John had to be at the airport for his early morning flight, but his alarm didn't go off so he overslept. After he finally woke up, he quickly got dressed, threw everything into his suitcase, and ran out of the house.

b. ____ After arriving at the airport he realized he had forgotten his passport, so he jumped in a taxi and returned home. He grabbed his passport from his desk, got back in the taxi, and sped to the airport.

c. ____ Before arriving at the airport the taxi was in an accident. He tried to flag down another taxi, but they were all taken, so he ran the rest of the way.

d. ____ While he was waiting, he went to buy a drink and some snacks at an airport shop. He was so upset with his situation that he walked out of the shop without paying and was later stopped and questioned by airport security officers.

e. ____ When he arrived at the airport, he saw that he had missed his flight and had to pay 500 dollars for another ticket for the next flight.

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D. **Underline the problems that John experienced, e.g. his alarm didn't go off.**

E. **Make third conditional sentences with some of the underlined problems in the story.**

e.g. If only John's alarm had gone off, he wouldn't have overslept.

1. .....

2. .....

3. .....

4. .....

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