

Wishes and Regrets

USE PAST:

When we make a wish or regret about a **present situation**, we use a second conditional structure:

To refer to a **present** situation that the speaker is unhappy about = **past simple**

I wish I were thinner.

He wishes the power station were far from the city

- ✓ We can also use the phrase "if only" to express the same idea:

If only I had more money!

If only she had a better job

USE PAST PERFECT SIMPLE:

When we regret about a **past situation** = **past perfect**

I wish I had studied harder at school when I was a teenager.

If only we had seen that special offer yesterday.

USE WOULD + BASE FORM:

To COMPLAIN about something (generally others) = **would**

I wish people wouldn't feed the animals