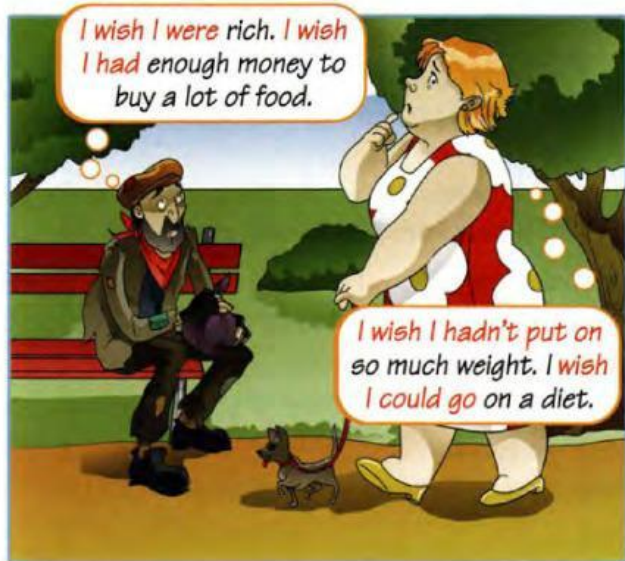




Listen and repeat. Then act out.



## Wishes

	Form	Use
<b>I wish (if only)</b> (wish/regret about the present)	+ past simple / past continuous	wish/regret about a present situation we want to be different
<i>I wish you studied more. (It's a pity you don't.)</i>		
<b>I wish (if only)</b> (wish/regret about the present)	+ could + bare infinitive	wish/regret in the present concerning lack of ability
<i>I wish I could drive a car. (But I can't.)</i>		
<b>I wish (if only)</b> (regret about the past)	+ past perfect	regret that something happened or didn't happen in the past
<i>I wish I had taken your advice. (But I didn't. It's a pity I didn't take it.)</i>		
<b>I wish (if only)</b> (impossible wish for a future change)	+ subject + would + bare inf. (a. 'wish' and 'would' should have different subjects. We never say: I wish I would, He wishes he would, etc b. wish + inanimate subject + would is used to express the speaker's lack of hope, or disappointment)	wish for a future change unlikely to happen or wish to express dissatisfaction; polite request implying dissatisfaction or lack of hope
<i>I wish he would drive more carefully. (But I don't think he will. – wish for a future change unlikely to happen)</i> <i>I wish the children would be more co-operative. (The children have refused to co-operate. – dissatisfaction)</i> <i>I wish you would be more patient with Jim. (Please be more patient with him. – request implying lack of hope)</i> <i>I wish it would stop raining. (But I'm afraid it won't stop raining. – wish implying disappointment)</i>		

- In wishes we go one tense back. This means that we use the past simple in the present or the past perfect in the past. *He's ill. He wishes he weren't ill. (present)*  
*I overslept yesterday. I wish I hadn't overslept yesterday. (past)*
- After **I wish** we can use **were** instead of **was** in all persons. *I wish I was/were richer.*
- **If only** means the same as **I wish** but it is more dramatic. *If only I was/were richer.*



- 15 Read what Conrad says, then write what he wishes, as in the example.



- I didn't check the forecast.
- It has been raining all day.
- My tent is leaking; I can't fix it.
- I didn't buy a good tent.
- The mosquitoes are biting me.
- I didn't bring any insect repellent.

- 1 *I wish I had checked the forecast.*
- 2 .....
- 3 .....
- 4 .....
- 5 .....
- 6 .....

- 16 Fill in the gaps with an appropriate auxiliary/modal verb.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 She can't type but she wishes she <i>could</i> .....      | 9 She won't accept help but I wish she .....                        |
| 2 They didn't buy the antique vase but they wish they ..... | 10 They haven't got any pets but they wish they .....               |
| 3 I'm not going to the concert but I wish I .....           | 11 I didn't see the programme but I wish I .....                    |
| 4 I'm not very tall but I wish I .....                      | 12 She's not qualified enough for the job but she wishes she .....  |
| 5 I didn't go to the meeting but I wish I .....             | 13 He can't afford to buy her a diamond ring but he wishes he ..... |
| 6 I can't tell him the truth but I wish I .....             | 14 I don't live close to the office, but I wish I .....             |
| 7 I don't earn much money but I wish I .....                | 15 She hasn't got a fax machine but she wishes she .....            |
| 8 He probably won't listen but I wish he .....              |   |

- 17 Match the items in column A with those in column B to make complaints, using **would/wouldn't**. Then, decide which person from the list is making each complaint.

• librarian • zoo-keeper • actor • doctor • shop manager • journalist • referee

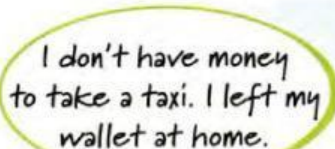
A		B	
1 <input type="checkbox"/> c	I wish readers	a (eat) healthily.	1 <i>librarian</i>
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	If only the politician	b (play) fairly.	2 .....
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	I wish my patients	c (not write) on the books.	3 .....
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	If only the audience	d (arrive) at work on time.	4 .....
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	I wish my staff	e (not talk) during the play.	5 .....
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	If only the teams	f (not feed) the animals.	6 .....
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	I wish visitors	g (answer) my questions about the economy.	7 .....

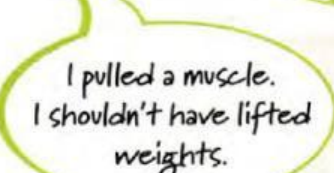
*I wish readers wouldn't write on the books.*

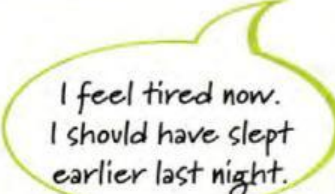
## 18 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: I wish I ...*could speak*... (speak) another language.  
B: It's never too late. You could take an evening course.
- 2 A: If only I ..... (train) harder for the race.  
B: Well, you can compete again next year.
- 3 A: I wish I ..... (not/give) George the money.  
B: Don't worry; he will pay you back soon.
- 4 A: I wish Bill ..... (tell) us why he's so sad today.  
B: Maybe he just needs some time alone.
- 5 A: I wish you ..... (take off) your dirty boots at the door.  
B: Sorry. I'll try to remember next time.
- 6 A: I wish I ..... (wear) my heavy coat. I feel really cold now.  
B: It's not your fault. The weather forecast said it would be sunny.
- 7 A: If only my children ..... (be) more helpful with the housework.  
B: You should give them some chores to do.
- 8 A: If only it ..... (stop) snowing.  
B: I know. It makes driving very dangerous.

## 19 Read the speech bubbles and make sentences, as in the example.

- 1  I wish *I hadn't left my wallet at home,* .....  
If *I hadn't left my wallet at home, I would have money to* .....  
*take a taxi.* .....

- 2  I wish .....  
If .....

- 3  I wish .....  
If .....

- 4  I wish .....  
If .....