

I wish / If only

We use *I wish* or *If only* with the past simple when we want to talk about a present situation that we would like to be different.

Example: I wish / If only I were a millionaire. (I'm not a millionaire, but I want to be)

A. Complete the statements with the verbs from the box in their past simple form.

fall	bring	have	know	accept	be	live	own
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1. I wish I a different job. I don't like the one I have now.
2. If only I near the sea. I love to swim.
3. I wish Antonio in love with me. I like him so much.
4. If only Pedro my apology.
5. It's cold today. I wish it warmer.
6. If only I a boat. We could go sailing.
7. It looks like it's going to rain. If only I an umbrella.
8. I wish I the answer, but I don't.



B. Change each sentence into a wish about the present.

Example: I want to speak English fluently.

..... *I wish I spoke English fluently.*

1. I want to be allowed to go on holiday with my friends.

I wish

2. I want to have a bigger TV.

If only

3. I want to live in a palace.

I wish

4. I want to have curly hair.

If only

5. I want to look more handsome.

I wish

6. I want to live with my brother.

If only

We use *I wish* or *If only* with the past perfect when we talk about a situation in the past that we regret.

Example: I wish / If only I had taken that job as an actress many years ago.

C. Complete the regrets with the past perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

1. I wish I (wake up) early this morning because I was late for work.
2. If only I (go) to Greece for my last holiday.
3. I wish I (not make) so much food. Nobody ate it!
4. If only I (buy) a faster car. This one is too slow!
5. I wish I (do) my homework earlier.
6. If only I (learn) a second language as a child.

D. Now, write about four things from your past that you regret.

1. I wish
2. If only
3. I wish
4. If only

E. Read each statement and decide if it is about the present or past by underlining the answer in brackets.

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| 1. I wish I had taken a longer holiday. | (present / past) |
| 2. If only I had listened to my parents. | (present / past) |
| 3. I wish I were good at magic. | (present / past) |
| 4. If only I worked in the city. | (present / past) |
| 5. I wish I were better at cooking. | (present / past) |
| 6. If only I hadn't left my phone at the park. | (present / past) |
| 7. I wish I knew how to fix my computer. | (present / past) |
| 8. If only I had met my best friend years ago. | (present / past) |
| 9. I wish I were interested in sports. | (present / past) |
| 10. If only I had read more books as a child. | (present / past) |

