TEACHER'S NOTE

Title: Expressing Regrets and Desires

Activity Type: Grammar identification, sentence completion, error correction.

Language Focus: I wish and If only

Aim: To practice expressing hypothetical desires and regrets about the present and the past using "I wish" and "If only", combined with a productive writing output.

Preparation: Printed worksheets, pens, and (optionally) a dictionary.

English Level: B1.

Time: 45 minutes.

Introduction: This material provides a review of “I wish and If only” structures followed by controlled practice task.

Procedure:

1. Distribute the material and review the brief description with the class.
2. Students complete the four grammar exercises individually.
3. Check answers using the Answer Key provided.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Expressing Regrets and Desires

Name: _____ Date: _____ Class: ___

GRAMMAR BRIEFING: WISHES & REGRETS

- **Present Wishes (Desire for a different situation now):** Use I wish / If only + Past Simple. *(e.g., I wish I had a faster computer / If only I knew the answer right now).*
- **Past Regrets (Wishing the past had been different):** Use I wish / If only + Past Perfect (had / hadn't + v3). *(e.g., I wish I hadn't lied to her yesterday / If only we had left earlier).*
- **Complaints & Annoyances (Wanting behavior or things to change):** Use I wish / If only + would + verb. *(e.g., I wish it would stop raining / If only my roommate would clean the kitchen).*
- **Key Tip:** *If only* is usually stronger and more empathetic than *I wish*, but they share the exact same grammatical structures.

Part A: Filling the gaps

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets to express a present wish, a regret about the past, or a complaint.

Example: *0. I wish I **had** (have) a faster computer; this one is too slow.*

1. If only I _____ (know) the answer to this question right now.
2. I wish it _____ (stop) raining soon; I want to go to the park.
3. If only we _____ (not lose) the map yesterday! We got completely lost.
4. I wish I _____ (can) speak French fluently.
5. If only my brother _____ (not play) his music so loud every night.
6. I wish they _____ (come) to my birthday party last Saturday.
7. If only I _____ (have) enough money to buy that phone today.
8. She wishes she _____ (not tell) him her secret last week.
9. I wish you _____ (listen) to me when I am giving you advice!
10. If only we _____ (live) closer to the beach during summer.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part B: Sentence Transformation

Instructions: Rewrite each real situation using "I wish" or "If only" to express a desire or regret.

Example: *0. Situation: I don't have a big bedroom. -> **I wish I had a big bedroom.***

1. Situation: I didn't study for the history exam.

If only _____.

2. Situation: My roommate always leaves the kitchen dirty.

I wish _____.

3. Situation: I cannot play the piano.

I wish _____.

4. Situation: We missed the train this morning.

If only _____.

5. Situation: It is freezing cold today.

I wish _____.

6. Situation: I told her an absolute lie.

If only _____.

7. Situation: You are making way too much noise.

I wish you _____.

8. Situation: I don't know how to swim.

If only _____.

9. Situation: He didn't invite me to his graduation party.

I wish _____.

10. Situation: I have to work during the weekend.

If only _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Part C: Situation Matching

Instructions: Match the everyday situation (1-10) with the logical wish or regret (a-j).

Example: *0. Situation: You are quite short.* ***(x)*** *-> x. I wish I were taller.*

Situation	Wish / Regret
1. You lost your keys yesterday. _____	**a)** I wish I could buy it.
2. The smartphone is too expensive. _____	**b)** If only I hadn't lost them.
3. Your sister borrows your clothes without asking. _____	**c)** I wish she would stop doing that.
4. You didn't wake up early today. _____	**d)** If only I had set an alarm.
5. You don't own a pet. _____	**e)** I wish I had a puppy.
6. It's raining cats and dogs right now. _____	**f)** If only it would stop raining.
7. You ate too much pizza and have a stomachache. _____	**g)** I wish I hadn't eaten so much.
8. You do not understand the homework assignment. _____	**h)** If only the teacher were here to help.
9. You failed your driving test last month. _____	**i)** I wish I had practiced more.
10. You live in a very noisy city center. _____	**j)** If only it were quieter here.

LIVEWORKSHEETS