



WORLD CUP 2026



"I WISH ..." GRAMMAR WORKSHEET

Hosts: Mexico **MX** · USA **US** · Canada **CA**

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____



PART A — Present wishes with PAST SIMPLE

Complete each sentence with the **PAST SIMPLE** of the verb in brackets. Watch out for the negatives!

1. I wish I _____ (have) a ticket to the World Cup 2026 final.
2. I wish the stadium _____ (not / be) so far from my house.
3. I wish my favourite team _____ (play) better in defence.
4. I wish I _____ (not / get) so nervous before big matches.
5. I wish we _____ (live) in a host city like Mexico City or Toronto.
6. I wish the matches _____ (not / start) so late at night.
7. I wish I _____ (understand) the offside rule.
8. I wish my brother _____ (not / support) the rival team.



PART B — Present ability with COULD / COULDN'T

Complete each sentence with **could** or **couldn't** + the verb in brackets.

9. I wish I _____ (play) football like Lionel Messi.
10. I wish I _____ (run) as fast as Kylian Mbappé.
11. I wish I _____ (not / get) tired so quickly during a match.
12. I wish I _____ (afford) tickets to every match.
13. I wish we _____ (travel) to all three host countries.
14. I wish I _____ (not / feel) so nervous when I take a penalty.
15. I wish I _____ (score) a goal in a real stadium.
16. I wish I _____ (speak) Spanish with the fans in Mexico.



PART C — MIXED practice

Decide whether each sentence needs the PAST SIMPLE or could / couldn't + verb. Some are negative!

17. I wish I _____ (be) taller.
18. I wish I _____ (play) the guitar to celebrate every goal.
19. I wish the tickets _____ (not / be) so expensive.
20. I wish I _____ (speak) three languages for the three host nations.
21. I wish my city _____ (host) a World Cup match.
22. I wish my team _____ (not / lose) the last game.
23. I wish I _____ (have) more free time to watch the games.
24. I wish I _____ (juggle) the ball 100 times.
25. I wish the final _____ (not / take place) so far away.