



SPORTING BLUNDERS



PAST WISHES & REGRETS · "I wish" / "If only" + past perfect

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Grammar zone

To talk about a **regret about the past**, use **wish + past perfect** (had / hadn't + past participle).
If only means the same thing but sounds *more dramatic*: If only he had scored!

Fill each gap. Conjugate (*wish*) where you see it, and put the verb in brackets into the past perfect.

1. Even today, Brazilian fans _____ (*wish*) their team
_____ (*not lose*) that final at home in 1950.
2. If only Diana Ross _____ (*not miss*) the open goal from two metres at the 1994 opening ceremony!
3. Roberto Baggio _____ (*wish*) he _____ (*not blast*) his penalty high over the bar in the 1994 final.
4. Zinedine Zidane _____ (*wish*) he _____ (*keep*) his cool instead of headbutting an opponent in 2006.
5. Irish fans _____ (*wish*) the referee _____ (*see*) Thierry Henry's obvious handball in 2009.
6. If only goal-line technology _____ (*exist*) when Frank Lampard's shot clearly crossed the line in 2010!
7. Algeria's players _____ (*wish*) West Germany and Austria
_____ (*play*) a fair match in the 1982 "Disgrace of Gijón".
8. If only Jean van de Velde _____ (*play*) it safe on the final hole instead of ending up in the water in 1999!
9. Greg Norman _____ (*wish*) he _____ (*not throw*) away a six-shot lead at the 1996 Masters.
10. Chris Webber _____ (*wish*) he _____ (*not call*) a timeout his team didn't have in the 1993 final.
11. If only the ball _____ (*not roll*) between Bill Buckner's legs in the 1986 World Series!

12. Buffalo fans _____ (*wish*) Scott Norwood's kick
_____ (*not go*) "wide right" in the 1991 Super Bowl.
13. If only Leon Lett _____ (*not celebrate*) too early before he
even reached the end zone in 1993!
14. Lindsey Jacobellis _____ (*wish*) she _____ (*not*
show off) just before the line, because she fell and lost gold in 2006.
15. If only Usain Bolt _____ (*not move*) too soon and caused a
false start at the 2011 World Championships!
16. South African fans _____ (*wish*) Herschelle Gibbs
_____ (*hold*) onto the catch instead of "dropping the World
Cup" in 1999.
17. If only Jana Novotná _____ (*not collapse*) when she was
winning the 1993 Wimbledon final!
18. The jockey still _____ (*wish*) his horse Devon Loch
_____ (*not jump*) at nothing just before the winning post in
1956.
19. The English team _____ (*wish*) they _____
(*take*) the "amateur" USA side more seriously before losing 1–0 in 1950.
20. If only Roy Riegels _____ (*not run*) the wrong way with the
ball in front of everyone in 1929!