

WISH & IF ONLY

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Express present wishes, past regrets and frustration about behaviour.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: These tickets are for tomorrow, not tonight.

B: Oh no. I **wish I'd checked** the date before we left.

A: Me too. I **wish they'd make** the date clearer on the website.

2. WHAT WOULD YOU CHANGE?

1. What ability do you **wish you had**? How would it change your life?
2. What do you **wish you could do** more easily? Explain what stops you.
3. What recent decision do you **wish you had made** differently?
4. What do you **wish you hadn't spent** so much time on?
5. What annoying behaviour do you **wish people would stop**? Why?
6. What feature of your town do you **wish were** different?

Keep talking: Is that about now or the past? / Can you change it? / What would help?

3. WISHES IN CONTEXT

Make a wish for each situation. Explain whether it concerns now, the past or changing behaviour.

7. You missed an application deadline. What do you **wish you had done**?
8. Your neighbour keeps playing loud music. What do you **wish they would do**?
9. You lack the time for a useful course. Finish: **If only I had ...**
10. You said something unkind. Finish: **If only I hadn't ...** Explain a possible repair.

4. WISHES THAT LEAD TO ACTION

Choose a current difficulty, a past regret and an irritating repeated behaviour.

Express a wish for each, then discuss which parts you can realistically change.

Example: I **wish I'd started** earlier. I can't change that, but I can ask for help now.

Agree on one constructive response instead of just repeating the complaint.

Answer help: I wish I had / could ... / If only I'd ... / I wish they would ...

Remember: Past form: present wish. Past perfect: past regret. Would: desired behaviour change.