



We use **wish** and **if only** to express regret about present or past situations.

1. When we refer to **a present situation** we use wish or if only with **Past Simple or Past Continuous**.

For example:

I **don't have** a car. (this is a present situation) – I **wish I had** a car. (wish+Past Simple)

I **have** too many duties. (this is a present situation) – **If only I didn't have** so many duties. (if only + Past Simple)

2. When we talk about **a past situation** we use wish or if only with **Past Perfect**.

For example:

I **didn't invite** Jim to my party. (this is a past situation) – I **wish I had invited** Jim to my party.

Sandra **didn't pass** her exams. (this is a past situation) – **If only** Sandra **had passed** her exams.

3. We can also use **wish or if only with would** to express our **annoyance or irritation** about something. By using WISH / IF ONLY + WOULD we express a desire for someone to change their behaviour in the present or future.

For example:

You always take my things without asking and I want you to stop! - I **wish** you **wouldn't take** my things without asking.

I'm on holiday and the weather is awful! It keeps raining all the time. - **If only** it **would stop** raining.

Now let's practise!

Exercise 1. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1. Alice feels sorry that she didn't invite Mark to her party.

Alice wishes she Mark to her party.

2. Marta doesn't have enough money to renovate her flat.

Marta wishes she money to renovate her flat.

3. Jim bought a parrot and now he regrets it.

Jim wishes he a parrot.

4. What a pity that I didn't know about your special offer.

If only I about your special offer.

5. I'm trying to concentrate and you keep making this terrible noise. It drives me crazy!

I wish you making this terrible noise.

6. I'm not tall enough to play basketball.

I wish I taller so that I could play basketball.

7. Stop using my computer for playing games!

I wish you using my computer for playing games.

8. We didn't know anything about your financial problems.

If only we something about your financial problems.

9. I regret moving to London.

I wish I to London.

10. Maria hates the fact that her husband smokes cigars.

Maria wishes her husband cigars.

Exercise 2. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb.
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1. - live

a) I wish I near my primary school when I was a 9-year-old student.

b) I wish I closer to you. It's a pity that we can meet up only once a month.

2. - take

a) I hate that he is so stubborn! I wish he my advice more often.

b) Jim decided not to participate in the school competition and now he regrets his decision. He wishes he part in that competition.

3. - have

a) Martha doesn't have enough money to go on holiday this year. She wishes she some savings.

b) Melisa was very busy when her friend came to town and she didn't spend much time with her. She wishes she more time for her friend.

4. - be

a) I'm afraid I'm not good enough to become an actress. I wish I more talented.

b) Oh no! I lost my phone in the park. I wish I more careful.

Exercise 3. Chose one option which means the same as the first sentence.

1. I regret that I didn't study harder when I was a student.
 - a) I wish I studied harder in high school.
 - b) If only I didn't study harder in high school.
 - c) I wish I had studied harder in high school.

2. I'd like to be a pilot.
 - a) If only I had been a pilot.
 - b) I wish I had been a pilot.
 - c) I wish I were a pilot.

3. Why did I start that silly argument?!
 - a) I wish I had started that silly argument.
 - b) If only I hadn't started that silly argument.
 - c) If only I didn't start that silly argument.

4. I regret buying two pairs of shoes.
 - a) If only I bought two pairs of shoes.
 - b) If only I didn't buy two pairs of shoes.
 - c) If only I hadn't bought two pairs of shoes.

5. What a pity that we don't have a map!
 - a) If only we didn't have a map!
 - b) I wish we have a map!
 - c) I wish we had a map!

6. This camera is fantastic! I'd like to have a similar one.
 - a) I wish I had had a similar camera.
 - b) I wish I had a similar camera.
 - c) I wish I have a similar camera.

7. Why didn't I learn to speak German?
 - a) I wish I spoke German.
 - b) I wish I had spoken German.
 - c) I wish I could speak German.

ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1.

1. Alice feels sorry that she didn't invite Mark to her party.

Alice wishes she HAD INVITED Mark to her party.

2. Marta doesn't have enough money to renovate her flat.

Marta wishes she HAD MORE/ENOUGH money to renovate her flat.

3. Jim bought a parrot and now he regrets it.

Jim wishes he HADN'T BOUGHT a parrot.

4. What a pity that I didn't know about your special offer.

If only I HAD KNOWN about your special offer.

5. I'm trying to concentrate and you keep making this terrible noise. It drives me crazy!

I wish you WOULD STOP making this terrible noise.

6. I'm not tall enough to play basketball.

I wish I WAS taller so that I could play basketball.

7. Stop using my computer for playing games!

I wish you WOULD STOP using my computer for playing games.

8. We didn't know anything about your financial problems.

If only we HAD KNOWN something about your financial problems.

9. I regret moving to London.

I wish I HADN'T MOVED to London.

10. Maria hates the fact that her husband smokes cigars.

Maria wishes her husband WOULDN'T SMOKE cigars.

Exercise 2.

1. - live

a) I wish I HAD LIVED near my primary school when I was a 9-year-old student.

b) I wish I LIVED closer to you. It's a pity that we can meet up only once a month.

2. - take

a) I hate that he is so stubborn! I wish he WOULD TAKE my advice more often.

b) Jim decided not to participate in the school competition and now he regrets his decision. He wishes he HAD TAKEN part in that competition.

3. - have

a) Martha doesn't have enough money to go on holiday this year. She wishes she HAD some savings.

b) Melisa was very busy when her friend came to town and she didn't spend much time with her. She wishes she HAD HAD more time for her friend.

4. - be

a) I'm afraid I'm not good enough to become an actress. I wish I WAS/WERE more talented.

b) Last week I lost my phone in the park. I wish I HAD BEEN more careful.

Exercise 3.

1 - c

2 - c

3 - b

4 - c

5 - c

6 - b

7 - c