

## I WISH.....

### Wishes about the present and future

1. We use 'wish' + past simple to express that we want a situation in the present (or future) to be different.

I **wish** I **spoke** Italian. -- I don't speak Italian

I **wish** I **had** a big car. -- I don't have a big car

I **wish** I **was** on a beach. -- I'm in the office

Future: I **wish** it **was** the weekend tomorrow. -- It's only Thursday tomorrow

2. We use 'wish' + past continuous to express that we want to be doing a different action in the present (or future).

I **wish** I **was lying** on a beach now. -- I'm sitting in the office

I **wish** it **wasn't raining**. -- It is raining

Future: I **wish** you **weren't leaving** tomorrow. -- You are leaving tomorrow

### Wishes about the past

We use 'wish' + past perfect to express a regret, or that **we want a situation in the past to be different.**

I **wish** I **hadn't eaten** so much. -- I ate a lot

I **wish** they'd **come** on holiday with us. -- They didn't come on holiday with us

I **wish** I **had studied** harder at school. -- I was lazy at school

## Wish + would

We use 'wish' + *would* + *infinitive* to express **impatience, annoyance or dissatisfaction with a present action.**

I **wish** you **would stop** smoking.

- You are smoking at the moment and it is annoying me

I **wish** it **would stop** raining.

- I'm impatient because it is raining and I want to go outside

I **wish** she'd **be** quiet.

- I am annoyed because she is speaking

## Important points

1. To simply express that you want something to happen in the future (not talking about wanting an action or situation to be different, and not talking about impatience or annoyance) we use '**hope**', *not* 'wish'.

I **hope** it's sunny tomorrow.

I wish it was sunny tomorrow. x

I **hope** she passes her exam next week.

I wish she were passing her exam next week. x

I **hope** the plane doesn't crash tomorrow.

I wish the plane wouldn't crash tomorrow. x

2. We can use '**wish**' + *infinitive* or '**wish**' + *object* + *infinitive* to mean **want** in a formal situation.

I **wish to leave** now. (+ infinitive)

I **wish to speak** to your supervisor please. (+ infinitive)

I **do not wish my name to appear** on the list. (+ object + infinitive)

3. We can use '(I) wish you' in fixed expressions.

I **wish you** a happy birthday.

**We wish you** good luck in your new job.

## If only

can be more emphatic than I wish. The verb forms after if only are the same as the patterns with wish:

If only I had more money! (= but I haven't)

If only I was going on holiday with you!

If only you were here. (= but you're not)

If only the sun would come out!

If only you could be here! (= but you're not)

If only I'd listened to you! (=but I didn't)

If only he could have explained! (=but he wasn't able to)

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