

Wish + Past Simple/Perfect

wish / if only + past = present/past regret

NAME _____

DATE _____

KEY RULE:

wish/if only + past simple = present wish. wish/if only + past perfect (had+pp) = past regret.

1 Choose the correct form

EASY

Choose the correct verb form after wish.

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| 1. I wish I ____ taller. (I'm not tall) | 2. She wishes she ____ how to drive. |
| 3. I wish it ____ raining. (it is raining) | 4. He wishes he ____ more free time. |
| 5. I wish I ____ speak French. | 6. She wishes she ____ here. |
| 7. We wish we ____ a bigger flat. | 8. I wish I ____ so tired all the time. |
| 9. He wishes he ____ play the guitar. | 10. I wish the neighbours ____ so noisy. |

2 wish or if only?

MEDIUM

Choose the more emphatic option or the correct form.

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|--|---|
| 1. Which is more emphatic: wish or if only? | 2. Correct: 'I wish I have/had more money.' |
| 3. Correct: 'If only it will/stopped raining!' | 4. Correct: 'I wish I were/am on holiday.' |
| 5. Correct: 'I wish I could/can fly.' | 6. Correct: 'She wishes she didn't/doesn't have to work.' |
| 7. Correct: 'If only I knew/know the answer!' | 8. Correct: 'I wish he would/will call more often.' |
| 9. Correct: 'She wishes she lived/lives in Paris.' | 10. More emphatic: 'I wish I passed' or 'If only I passed!' |

3 Write the wish sentence

HARD

Use wish + correct verb form.

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|--|---|
| 1. I don't have a car. I wish I ____. | 2. She can't cook. She wishes she ____. |
| 3. It's raining. I wish it ____. | 4. He has to work Saturday. He wishes ____. |
| 5. I'm not on holiday. I wish I ____. | 6. They live far away. They wish they ____. |
| 7. I don't know the answer. I wish I ____. | 8. She is always late. I wish she ____. |
| 9. I can't afford it. I wish I ____. | 10. He is rude to me. I wish he ____. |

4

Present wish or past regret?

HARDER

Choose: wish + past simple (present) or past perfect (regret).

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|--|---|
| <p>1. I'm tired now. I wish I ____ to bed earlier.</p> <hr/> <p>3. He failed the test. He wishes he ____ harder.</p> <hr/> <p>5. I said something rude. I wish I ____ that.</p> <hr/> <p>7. She doesn't like her job. She wishes she ____.</p> <hr/> <p>9. I live far from work. I wish I ____ closer.</p> <hr/> | <p>2. I don't speak Spanish. I wish I ____ Spanish.</p> <hr/> <p>4. She can't come. She wishes she ____ here.</p> <hr/> <p>6. We missed the train. We wish we ____ earlier.</p> <hr/> <p>8. He didn't apply. He wishes he ____ the job.</p> <hr/> <p>10. They argued. They wish they ____ the argument.</p> <hr/> |
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Answer Key

Check your answers below

1 Exercise 1 wish + past simple

1 was/were

2 knew

3 stopped

4 had

5 could

6 were/was

7 lived in

8 wasn't

9 could

10 weren't

2 Exercise 2 wish or if only

1 if only

2 had

3 stopped

4 were

5 could

6 didn't

7 knew

8 would

9 lived

10 if only

3 Exercise 3 Write wish

1 had a car

2 could cook

3 would stop

4 he didn't have to

5 were on holiday

6 lived closer

7 knew

8 weren't always late

9 could afford it

10 would be nicer

4 Exercise 4 Present or past regret

1 had gone

2 spoke

3 had studied

4 could be

5 hadn't said

6 had left

7 liked her job

8 had applied for

9 lived

10 hadn't had