

WISH & IF ONLY (REGRETS & WISHES)

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Grammar Intro

Use **Wish / If Only** to express desires for things to be different. Use **Past Simple** for present wishes, **Past Perfect** for past regrets, and **would + verb** to complain about annoying habits or request changes.

- Example: *I wish I **knew** the answer. / If only I **hadn't said** that!*

Activity 1: Category Match

Match each sentence with its correct functional category: **Present Wish**, **Past Regret**, or **Annoying Habit/Future Request**.

1. I wish it would stop raining so we could play football. _____
2. If only I had accepted that job offer in London! _____
3. I wish I lived closer to the beach. _____
4. If only he wouldn't interrupt me when I'm speaking. _____
5. She wishes she hadn't eaten so much chocolate. _____

Activity 2: Choose the Correct Form

Select the correct verb tense for each wish structure.

1. I wish I (can / could) speak three foreign languages.
2. If only I (didn't spend / hadn't spent) all my savings on that car last month.
3. He wishes his neighbours (won't / wouldn't) play loud music every night.
4. I wish today (is / were) Saturday instead of Tuesday.
5. If only she (knows / knew) how much trouble she caused.

Activity 3: Transform into Wishes

Rewrite the sentences starting with **I wish** or **If only** to express the opposite reality.

1. I don't have a car. → I wish _____.
2. I missed the last train home. → *If only* _____*!*
3. My brother borrows my clothes without asking. (Annoyance) → *I wish my brother* _____.
4. I didn't study for the exam. → *If only* _____.
5. It is freezing cold outside today. → *I wish* _____.

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Answer Key

Activity 1:

1. Annoying Habit/Future Request
2. Past Regret
3. Present Wish
4. Annoying Habit/Future Request
5. Past Regret

Activity 2:

1. could
2. hadn't spent
3. wouldn't
4. were
5. knew

Activity 3:

1. ...I had a car.
2. ...I hadn't missed the last train home! / ...I had caught the last train!
3. ...wouldn't borrow my clothes without asking.
4. ...I had studied for the exam.
5. ...it wasn't / weren't so cold outside today.

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