

**WISH, IF ONLY**

# wish+past simple/ past continuous

We use **wish + past simple/ past continuous** to express our **dissatisfaction** with present situations:

I **wish I was/ were** tall. (=but I'm not)

I **wish I was/ were** going to on holiday with you. (=but I'm not)

Harry **wishes** his brother **were** here. (=but He isn't)

We can use **were** instead of **was** after wish: I wish I **were** you.



## wish+could / would

We often use **wish + could** to talk about things we are **unable to do**:

I **wish** I **could** help you.     ~~I wish I would help you.~~

We often use **wish + would** to express our **dissatisfaction** and **annoyance** about something that we would like to be different:

I **wish** this car **would** go faster !

I **wish** you **would stop** talking!

We use **wish + past perfect** to express regret about the past:

I **wish** I **hadn't taken** your advice.  
(=but I did)

We can also use **wish + could have + past participle**

I **wish** she **could have come**. (=but she didn't)

## Here is a summary of the patterns we use with wish:

Pattern after I wish	Time reference	Example
Past simple	present	I wish I knew the answer.
Past continuous	present	I wish I were going with you.
Could	present	I wish I could give you an answer.
Would	present/ future	I wish you would be quiet!
Past perfect	past	She wishes she had known us then.
Could have+ pp II	past	I wish I could have explained.

## If only

If only can be used in the same way as wish.

The patterns after if only are the same as those after wish:

If only I had more money. (=but I don't)

If only I was going with you. (=but I'm not)

If only you could come, too. (=but you can't)

If only the sun would come out!

If only I had listened to you. (= but I didn't)

If only he could have joined us. (=he wasn't able to )

**Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

0. My grandad wishes he **could use** (can / use) a computer.
1. Bruce wishes he..... (have) more money so he could buy a new sweater.
2. If only I .....(be) taller! I'd love to be in the basketball team.
3. I wish I..... (not spend) all my money. Now I don't have enough for my bus fare!
4. I wish you ..... (not watch) TV while I'm talking to you!
5. I wish you ..... (not do) that. It's really annoying!
6. Ella wishes she..... (not speak) to her friend like that last night.
7. If only they ..... (not build) that block of flats right in front of our window!
8. Of course Tom wishes he ..... (can / come) with us but he has to stay here and work.
9. I wish we..... (can / go) to the match on Saturday but we're visiting my uncle.
10. I really wish you .....(not tell) Mary. Now she knows everything!
11. If only you ..... (not lose) all our money. Now we're broke.
12. Peter's always late. If only he ..... (turn up) on time for a change!

**Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets.**

0. My grandad wishes he **could use** (can / use) a computer.
1. Bruce wishes he **had** (have) more money so he could buy a new sweater.
2. If only I **were** (be) taller! I'd love to be in the basketball team.
3. I wish I **hadn't spent** (not spend) all my money. Now I don't have enough for my bus fare!
4. I wish you **wouldn't watch** (not watch) TV while I'm talking to you!
5. I wish you **wouldn't do** (not do) that. It's really annoying!
6. Ella wishes she **hadn't spoken** (not speak) to her friend like that last night.
7. If only they **weren't building** (not build) that block of flats right in front of our window!
8. Of course Tom wishes he **could come** (can / come) with us but he has to stay here and work.
9. I wish we **could go** (can / go) to the match on Saturday but we're visiting my uncle.
10. I really wish you **hadn't told** (not tell) Mary. Now she knows everything!
11. If only you **hadn't lost** (not lose) all our money. Now we're broke.
12. Peter's always late. If only he **would turn up** (turn up) on time for a change!

Homework:  
Worksheet wish/If only

THANK  
YOU FOR  
PARTICIPATING

