

I wish/If only

We use *wish* to say we would like something to be different from the reality.

To talk about a wish in the present, or a permanent wish, use *wish* + Past Simple. The most common verbs are *wish* + *was/were* and *wish* + *had*.

She wishes she was taller.

I wish I had a pen.

With the verb *to be* you can also say *I wish I were/she wishes she were*.

She wishes she were taller.

To talk about a wish in the past, use *wish* + past perfect.

He wishes he had gone to the exhibition yesterday.

I wish I hadn't eaten that sandwich.

We use *wish* + object + *would* to show you want something to change. We often use this structure to show anger or annoyance.

I wish she would come on time.

I wish you wouldn't make that noise.



We can't say: *I wish I would.*

We use *wish* + *could* to talk about an ability that you want but don't have.

I wish I could play chess as well as you.

I wish I could fly.



We don't usually use *wish* + *couldn't*.

We can also use *if only* instead of *I wish*. The meaning is a little bit stronger than *I wish*.

If only we could go home!

If only they hadn't taken the money!

Review of past tenses

We often use the Past Simple, Past Perfect and Past Continuous for narratives.

The Past Simple is used for the main completed events of a story.

I took the money and ran.

The Past Perfect is used to make it clear that one action happened before another action.

I knew I'd seen him before.

The Past Continuous is used for an action in progress when the main events happened. It's often a background action in the narrative.

When I got outside, it was raining hard.

I was living in Paris when I married Lily. I'd met her in Austria.

Phrasal verbs

There are four main types of phrasal verbs:

1 Intransitive

The verb takes no object.

I grew up.

2 Transitive – separable

The verb takes an object and the verb and particle can split.

I turned off the light.

I turned the light off.

I turned it off.

When the object is a pronoun (*he/she/it*, etc.) the verb and particle must split.

NOT: ~~*I turned off it.*~~

3 Transitive – inseparable

The verb takes an object, but the verb and particle cannot split.

He got on the bus.

NOT: ~~*He got the bus on.*~~

4 Three-part

The verb has two particles and doesn't split (transitive, inseparable).

We're looking forward to seeing you.

NOT: ~~*We're looking forward seeing you to.*~~

Key vocabulary

Memory

commemorate homesick in memory of memento
memorial nostalgia remember remind us of

Biographies

a difficult start in life against the odds
from an early age is best known for
is widely considered to be
one of the greatest ... of all times

Phrasal verbs

call off carry on come back come up with
get over go on go through find out
put up with split up turn into turn up

The senses

feel hear hold listen to look look at see
smell sound taste touch watch



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