
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 (though unlikely).

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/were** on a beach. (I'm in the office.)

Future: I **wish** it **was/were** 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 (impossible now).

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(W/O 'TO') 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.
4. **You cannot use 'wish' + 'would' for a wish about yourself.**
I **wish I would...** **X**
5. **You can also use 'if only' instead of 'I wish' with these tenses.**
If only the bus **would** come.
If only I **hadn't bought** these shoes.