

76 Wishes and regrets

English uses the verb “wish” to talk about present and past regrets. The tense of the verb that follows “wish” affects the meaning of the sentence.

⚙️ **New language** “Wish” with past tenses

Aa **Vocabulary** Life events

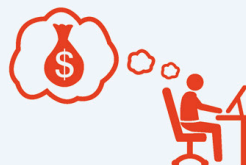
🧩 **New skill** Talking about regrets

76.1 KEY LANGUAGE “WISH” AND PAST SIMPLE

Use “wish” with the past simple, or with the modal verbs “would” and “could,” to express regrets and desires about the present.

I **wish** I **earned** more money.

Use the past simple to talk about the present.



This music is horrible! I **wish** it **would** stop.

You can also use modal verbs to express wishes about the present.



76.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES “WISH” AND PAST SIMPLE

He **wishes** he **could** afford a big house.



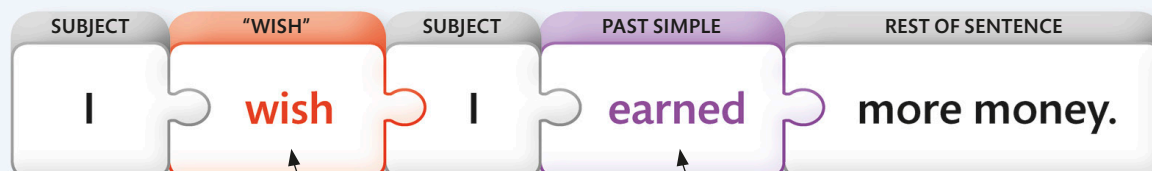
I **wish** you **didn't have to** work so hard.



They **wish** the weather **was** better.



76.3 HOW TO FORM “WISH” AND PAST SIMPLE



Use “wish” or “wishes” depending on the subject.

The past simple expresses wishes or regrets about the present.



76.4 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE



Anna wishes she ~~can buy~~ / **could buy** / ~~will buy~~ that dress, but it's too expensive.

1



I wish I **had** / **have** / **would have** a cat, but my apartment's too small for any pets.

2



Bella wishes she **live** / **lives** / **lived** on the coast. She loves the beach.

3



My children are such fussy eaters. I wish they **would eat** / **will eat** / **eat** more vegetables.

4



The phone keeps ringing. I wish someone **answered** / **would answer** / **answers** it.

5



I'm sick of this bad weather. I wish it **would stop** / **will stop** / **stopped** raining.

6



Joshua can't play any instruments. He wishes he **plays** / **would play** / **could play** the piano.



76.5 USE "I WISH" AND THE PAST SIMPLE TO TALK ABOUT THE SITUATIONS BELOW, SPEAKING OUT LOUD

You can't afford to go on vacation.

I wish I could afford to go on vacation.



3 You can't play the guitar.



1 Your job is very boring.



4 Your house is really cold.



2 You have to clean your apartment tonight.

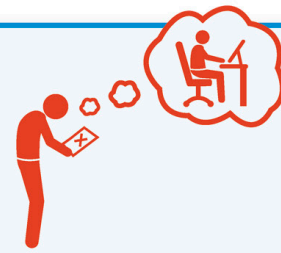


5 The baby won't stop crying.



76.6 KEY LANGUAGE "WISH" AND PAST PERFECT

Use "wish" with the past perfect to express regrets about the past. This construction is used when it is too late for the wish to come true.



I've failed my exams. I **wish** I **had studied** harder.

past perfect

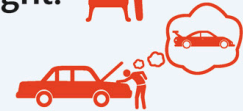


76.7 FURTHER EXAMPLES "WISH" AND PAST PERFECT

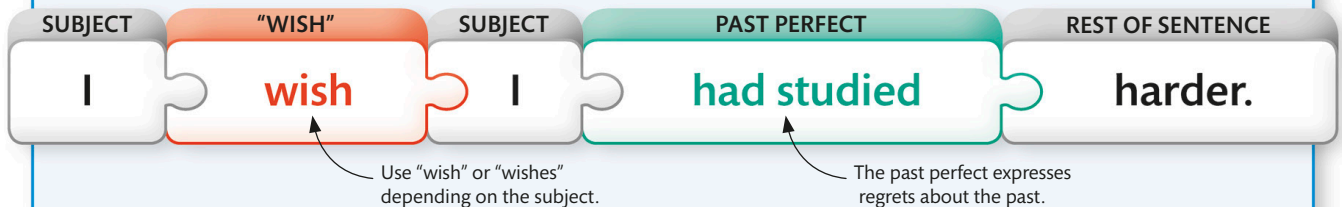
He's very tired. He **wishes** he **had gone** to bed early last night.



My car's useless! I **wish** I **hadn't bought** such an old one.



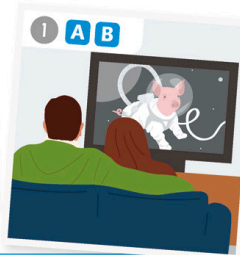
76.8 HOW TO FORM "WISH" AND PAST PERFECT



76.9 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND MARK WHETHER THE PICTURES SHOW REGRETS ABOUT THE PRESENT OR THE PAST

A THE PRESENT

B THE PAST





76.10 READ THE LETTER AND COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

Ella wishes she had stayed at school when she was 16.

- 1 Ella wishes _____ at college.
- 2 Ella wishes _____ about the great painters.
- 3 Ella wishes _____ still play the piano.
- 4 Ella wishes _____ when she was only 20.
- 5 Ella wishes _____ so far away from her family.

Dear Olive,

I want to tell you about my childhood. I had to drop out of school when I was 16, and I was so disappointed because I really wanted to study art at college. I'd love to know more about the great painters. I also had to give up learning the piano. It's a real shame that I can't play it now.

I married your grandfather when I was 20. Looking back, I think we were too young to get married, but we've been very happy together. It's just sad that we live so far away from our family.

Lots of love, Grandma Ella

76 CHECKLIST



"Wish" with past tenses ☐

Aa Life events ☐



Talking about regrets ☐



REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 73-76

NEW LANGUAGE	SAMPLE SENTENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNIT
REPORTED QUESTIONS	Adam asked me where his keys were. He asked me when the concert started.	<input type="checkbox"/>	73.1, 73.6
COLLOCATIONS WITH "RAISE"	She gave a speech that raised eyebrows.	<input type="checkbox"/>	73.10
"IF" AND "WHETHER"	My boss asked if I was meeting my targets. He asked whether I wanted tea or coffee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	74.1, 74.7
INDIRECT QUESTIONS	Do you know where the station is? Could you tell me if it is raining outside?	<input type="checkbox"/>	75.1, 75.6
"WISH" AND PAST SIMPLE	I wish I earned more money.	<input type="checkbox"/>	76.1
"WISH" AND PAST PERFECT	I wish I had studied harder.	<input type="checkbox"/>	76.6