

I WISH /IF ONLY

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.

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

Future: I **wish** it **was** the weekend tomorrow. (It's only Thursday 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.

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* + *bare infinitive* 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

