



Expressing Wishes and Regrets

Wishes and Regrets: Expressing hopes and wishes for the future, or wishes and regrets about the past can be done using various constructions. One common construction uses "if only" followed by various tenses. Other constructions use "I wish" followed by various tenses.

Wish + Past Perfect

Use this expression for regrets. (Example: He wishes he had been there to see his daughter get married.)

If only + Past Simple

Use this expression to express wishes that are unlikely to come true. (Example: If only I lived in a warmer country, I wouldn't have to deal with the snow.)

If only + Would

Use this expression to state wishes. (Example: If only we would eat healthier we would lose weight.)

If only + Past Perfect

Use this expression to state regrets. (Example: If only I had saved enough money, I could buy a car.)

Regrets

Use WISH + WOULD to express regret or annoyance. (Example: She wishes you would stop biting your nails – it drives her crazy!)

Excuses or Regrets

Use WISH + COULD to express an excuse due to inability or regret. (Example: I wish I could stay longer but I have a meeting this afternoon.)



Hypothetical or Imaginary Wishes

Use WISH + PAST TENSE VERB FORM to express a wish about a hypothetical situation or a private wish or longing. (Example: I wish I had the money to travel the world.)

Achievable Wishes

Use WISH + INFINITIVE to express a wish that can occur in the future. (Example: I wish to go to the movies this weekend.)