

A We say '**wish** somebody **luck** / **all the best** / **success**' etc. :

- ☐ I **wish you all the best** in the future.
- ☐ I saw Mark before the exam and **he wished me luck**.

We say '**wish** somebody *something*' (**luck**, **happiness** etc.), but we do not say 'I wish something *happens*'. We use **hope** in this situation:

- ☐ I'm sorry you're not well. I **hope** you **feel** better soon. (*not* I wish you feel)

Compare **I wish** and **I hope**:

- ☐ I **wish** you **a pleasant stay** at this hotel.
- ☐ I **hope** you **enjoy** your stay at this hotel. (*not* I wish you enjoy)

B We also use **wish** to say that we regret something, that something is not as we would like it.

When we use **wish** in this way, we use the *past* (**knew/lived** etc.), but the meaning is *present*:

- ☐ I **wish I knew** what to do about the problem. (but I don't know)
- ☐ I **wish you didn't** have to go so soon. (but you have to go)
- ☐ Do you **wish you lived** near the sea? (you don't live near the sea)
- ☐ Jack's going on a trip to Mexico soon. I **wish I was** going too. (but I'm not going)

To say that we regret something that happened before, we use **wish + had known / had said** etc. :

- ☐ I **wish I'd known** about the party. I'd have gone if I'd known. (but I didn't know)
- ☐ It was a stupid thing to say. I **wish I hadn't said** it. (but I said it)

See also Units 39 and 40.

C I **wish I could** (do something) = I regret that I cannot do it:

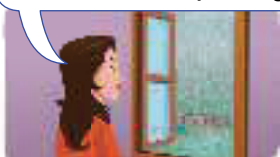
- ☐ I'm sorry you have to go. I **wish you could stay** longer. (but you can't)
- ☐ I've met that man before. I **wish I could remember** his name. (but I can't)

I **wish I could have** (done something) = I regret that I could not do it:

- ☐ I hear the party was great. I **wish I could have gone**. (but I couldn't go)

D You can say '**I wish** something **would** happen'. For example:

I wish it would stop raining.



It's been raining all day. Tanya doesn't like it. She says:

I wish it would stop raining.

Tanya would like the rain to stop, but this will probably not happen.

We use **I wish ... would** when we would like something to happen or change.

We often use **I wish ... would** to complain about a situation:

- ☐ The phone has been ringing for five minutes. I **wish** somebody **would answer** it.
- ☐ I **wish you'd do** (= you **would** do) something instead of just sitting and doing nothing.

You can use **I wish ... wouldn't ...** to complain about things that people do repeatedly:

- ☐ I **wish you wouldn't keep** interrupting me. (= please stop interrupting me)

E We use **I wish ... would ...** to say that we want something *to happen*. We do not use **I wish ... would ...** to say how we would like things *to be*. Compare:

- ☐ I **wish** Sarah **would** come. (= I want her to come)
- but I **wish** Sarah **was** (or **were**) here now. (*not* I wish Sarah would be)
- ☐ I **wish** somebody **would buy** me a car.
- but I **wish** I **had** a car. (*not* I wish I would have)

Exercises

41.1 Put in **wish(ed)** or **hope(d)**.

- I wish you a pleasant stay at this hotel.
- Enjoy your holiday. I you have a great time.
- Goodbye. I you all the best for the future.
- We said goodbye to each other and each other luck.
- We're going to have a picnic tomorrow, so I the weather is nice.
- Congratulations on your new job. I you every success.
- Good luck in your new job. I it works out well for you.

41.2 Complete the sentences.

- Jack is going on a trip to Mexico soon. I wish I was going too.
- I'm very tired and I have so much to do. I wish I so tired.
- You didn't tell me you were ill. Why not? I wish you me.
- I don't have enough free time. I wish I more free time.
- I can't make up my mind what to do. I wish I decide.
- I bought these shoes, but now I don't like them. I wish I them.
- We have to go out now and I don't want to go. I wish we to go out now.
- Unfortunately I couldn't go to the wedding last month. I wish I could

41.3 What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with **I wish ... would ...**.

- It's raining. You want to go out, but not in the rain.
You say: I wish it would stop raining.
- You're waiting for Jane. She's late and you're getting impatient.
You say to yourself: I wish she
- You're looking for a job – so far without success. Nobody will give you a job.
You say: I wish somebody
- You can hear a dog barking. It's been barking a long time and you're trying to study.
You say:

For the following situations, write sentences with **I wish ... wouldn't ...**.

- Your friend is driving very fast. She always drives fast and you don't like this.
You say to her: I wish you
- Joe leaves the door open all the time. This annoys you.
You say to Joe:
- A lot of people drop litter in the street. You don't like this.
You say: I wish people

41.4 Put the verb into the correct form.

- It was a stupid thing to say. I wish I hadn't said it. (I / not / say)
- I'm fed up with this rain. I wish it would stop. (it / stop)
- It's a difficult question. I wish the answer. (I / know)
- I really didn't enjoy the party. I wish (we / not / go)
- I wish We've been waiting for 20 minutes. (the bus / come)
- You're lucky to be going away. I wish with you. (I / can / come)
- Our flat is rather small. I wish a bit bigger. (it / be)
- I should have listened to you. I wish your advice. (I / take)
- You keep interrupting me! I wish (you / listen)
- You're always complaining. I wish all the time. (you / not / complain)
- It's freezing today. I wish so cold. I hate cold weather. (it / not / be)
- I wish It's horrible! (the weather / change)
- I wish a piano. I'd love to have one. (I / have)
- When we were in London last year, we didn't have time to see all the things we wanted to see.
I wish there longer. (we / can / stay)