

I wish...



“I wish” is used to express something we want but cannot have.

Eg. *I wish I could buy a new car, but I don't have enough money.*

The verb after a wish is in the past tense. This shows that the wish is impossible.

Eg. *I wish I was a little bit taller, then I could play basketball.*

“If only” can also be used instead of “I wish”

Eg. *If only I lived in a big city, I could find a job.*

 1. Create an “I wish” or “if only” statement that fits the sentences below.

a) My feet hurt so much!

E.g. “I wish my shoes were more comfortable!” or “If only I didn't have to walk so much!”

b) I'm sorry I can't come to the picnic, I'm so busy this week.


c) I hate wearing glasses, but I can't see a thing without them.

d) My house is tiny and I have 5 kids, it's a nightmare!

e) My husband/wife snores loudly every night!

f) I can't get a cat because I'm allergic to them, but they're so adorable!

g) It takes me 2 hours to drive to work every day, and the traffic is always terrible.

 2. Pairwork: A magic genie grants you 3 wishes. Write down your 3 wishes using “I wish” statements and discuss them with you partner.

“I wish +(sb) would+ (verb)” is used to express irritation at another person’s habits.
Eg. *It’s really annoying when you talk with your mouth full. I wish you wouldn’t do that.*



3. Pamela and Edward are housemates. Read through their opinions of each other and write “I wish he/she would” statements.

Pamela: Edward seemed really nice when he first moved in, and he is a nice guy I guess... but he’s not a good housemate. He always leaves his dirty dishes in the sink and it seems like I’m always the one who ends up cleaning them. On top of that he often comes home drunk and makes a lot of noise! I work early in the morning, so I can’t stand it when he wakes me up. Oh and one more thing. He sleeps on the sofa all the time, and it’s so irritating. Why can’t he just sleep in his room?

Edward: I’m really not sure about Pamela anymore. We got along really well when I moved in...but things have been going downhill. I cook for both of us most nights, but even when I cook she still expects me to clean the dishes! She also wakes up really early every morning and insists on listening to loud music while she showers. And the worst thing? She’s always wearing her shoes inside. That’s one of my biggest pet hates!

Pamela:

Eg. *I wish he would clean his dishes*

Edward



4. Now think about someone you know whose habits annoy you and make 3 “I wish he/she would/wouldn’t” statements

“I wish (sb) had+past participle” is used to express a regret about the past.

E.g. *That was a stupid thing to say. I wish I hadn't said that*

Or

Walking was a mistake. I wish I'd taken the train



5. Below are the stories of some of the biggest financial mistakes in history. Read through the stories and make “I wish I had/hadn't...” statements from the perspective of the person who made the mistake.

a) In 2012 an elderly Spanish lady decided to restore a valuable piece of art in her church. The painting was a 100 year old painting by Elias Martinez. Clearly, the restoration did not go well, and the lady later apologized, claiming the paint she had used ran while she was on holiday. Some locals suggested the woman should be jailed for ruining the artwork.




E.g. *I wish I hadn't tried to restore it.*

b) James Howells bought 7,500 bitcoins in 2009. In 2009 the coins were worth almost nothing, but today they would have a value of 260 million dollars. The only problem? Mr Howells accidentally threw away the hard drive containing the bitcoins, and only realised his mistake years later.

c) In 2016 the French Railways Department spent 15 billion dollars on a new fleet of trains. Unfortunately, somebody forgot to measure the trains. It turns out they are far too wide to fit into many of the stations around France. The French government has spent the last few years widening the stations, which has so far cost 50 million dollars.

d) J.K Rowling, author of Harry Potter, is a household name these days, but it was surprisingly hard for her to get her world-famous series published. Rowling was rejected by a shocking 12 publishing companies. Finally, Bloomsbury Publishing decided to publish the book after the CEO's 8 year old daughter read it and fell in love with it. The books have so far made about 8 billion dollars.

e) In 2005, a Japanese company lost more than 200 million dollars due to a single typo. A trader who worked for the company accidentally sold 610,000 shares in the company for one yen (\$0.009) instead of selling one share of the company for 610,000 yen.

 6. Read the conversation below and fill out the gap with the verb in brackets and an appropriate “I wish” form. More than one answer may be possible.

Andre: Hey Henry, how did the job interview go?

Henry: Not so well unfortunately. They asked me a lot of questions about “why I want to work there” and honestly I don’t know much about the company. It was embarrassing. I wish I (do)research about it first.

Andre: I hate those types of questions. I wish they..... (negative/ask) them.

Henry: I agree, I mean what’s the point? I wish I (can) just be honest and say: I want to work there for the money! What’s wrong with that?

Andre: Exactly. Anyway, hopefully you get the job. Are you coming to Emma’s party tonight?

Henry: Well I have to because I said I’d be there, but honestly I wish I (tell) her I couldn’t come. I’m exhausted and I just want to stay at home. You?

Andre: Yeah I’ll be there, but it’ll take me ages to drive there, she lives on the other side of town. I wish she (negative/live) so far away.

Henry: Yeah I know what you mean. And on top of that she’ll probably be playing that horrible k-pop music she likes so much. I really wish she (negative/play) that at parties.

Andre: Do you think we could convince her to put something else on?

Henry: I wish we (can), but she gets really upset if people change the music.