**WISHES AND REGRETS**

**Study these examples:**

**1. Some rural children in Morocco can’t go to school**

**The situation is true in the present. It’s a present situation and the verb is negative. To express a wish here we must make 2 changes: first, change the tense of the verb from present simple to past simple. Second, turn the negative form to positive form**

**If only some rural students in Morocco could go to school**

**2. I missed an episode of my favourite serial yesterday.**

**The situation happened in the past , so the verb takes the past simple ( missed ). The form is positive. To express a wish here we must again make 2 changes: first, change the tense of the verb from past simple to past perfect. Second, turn the positive form to negative form**

**I wish / wished I had not missed an episode of my favourite serial yesterday.**

**3. the doctors didn’t accept Elena’s child in hospital. So, he died.**

**The situation happened in the past, so the verb takes the past simple (did not accept ). The form is negative. To express a wish here we must again make 2 changes: first, change the tense of the verb from past simple to past perfect. Second, turn the negative form to positive form**

**If only the doctors had accepted Elena’s child in hospital**

**4. Some African immigrants suffer from racism in Morocco**

**The situation is true in now. So, It’s a present situation but here the verb is positive ( suffer ). To express a wish here we need to change the tense of the verb from present simple to past simple. Second, turn the positive form to negative**

**I wish some African immigrants did not suffer from racism in Morocco**

**The rule is as follows**

**To express a wish about a present situation : I wish/ If only + verb in the past simple**

**( examples 1 and 4 )**

**To express a wish/regret about a past situation : I wish/ If only + verb in the past perfect**

**( examples 2 and 3 )**

**Simple present simple past**

**Simple past past perfect**

**Negative verb positive verb**

**Positive verb negative verb**

**Practice 1**

Underline the right form of each wish/ regret below.

*Example :*

*‘I failed in the driving test!’*

*a) If only I had failed in the driving test.*

*b) If only I hadn’t failed in the driving test.*

1. My father spoke only Spanish when he was in Canada.

*a)* He wishes he spoke English or French

*b)* He wishes he had spoken English or French.

2. I didn’t attend Anna’s birthday party.

*a)* If only I have attended Anna’s birthday party.

*b)* If only I had attended Anna’s birthday party.

3. I ate too much and I felt sick.

*a)* If only I hadn’t eaten too much.

*b)* If only I didn’t eat too much.

4. It's a pity we don't own a boat, I love sailing.

*a)* I wish we owned a boat.

*b)* I wish we had owned a boat.

5. Emma can’t stop making noise.

*a)* I wish Emma would make noise.

*b)* I wish Emma could stop making noise.

6. Lamia didn’t get a good grade in the English final exam.

*a)* She wishes she got a good grade.

*b)* She wishes she had got a good grade.

7. Paul lost his passport.

*a)* If only Paul hadn’t lost his passport.

*b)* If only he didn’t lose his passport.

8. I can’t speak any languages.

*a)* I wish I could speak some languages.

*b)* I wish I can speak some languages.

9. Scarlett always comes late to the meetings.

*a)* I wish Scarlett would come on time.

*b)* I wish Scarlett wouldn’t come on time to the meetings.

Practice 2

**A. SAY IF THESE SENTENCES EXPRESS WISHES ABOUT PRESENT OR PAST. THEN PUT THE WORDS BETWEEN BRACKETS IN THE CORRECT TENSE ( SIMPLE PAST OR PAST PERFECT )**

**1. I wish I (not /miss ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_the end-of-term school party. They say it was great. (…………………………..)**

**2. I wish I ( be ) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_very rich, so I could help all the poor and the needy. ( …………………………….)**

**3.They wish they ( can) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_help, but they can’t ; they’re too busy now. ( ………………………………….)**

**4. I wish the weather ( not/ be) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_colder, so we could stay here to enjoy the picnic. ( …………………………..)**

**5. If only I (turn )\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in the school project on time last week. ( …………………………….)**

**B. REWRITE THESE SENTENCES AS INDICATED :**

**1. I want to buy this computer, but I don’ have enough money.**

**I wish …………………………………………………………………………………………….**

**2. I’m not a hardworking student.**

**If only ……………………………………………………………………………………………**

**3. I work on Sundays, too.**

**I wish ………………………………………………………………………………………….………**

**4. I can’t drive now.**

**I wish ………………………………………………………………………………..…………**

**5. “ I didn’t spend enough time with family,” Sarah regretted**

**Sara wishes …………………………………………………………………………….…………**

**6. I don’t speak good French. I am bad at languages.**

**If only ……………………………………………………………………………**

**7. My cousin spent all his money on drugs**

**My cousin wishes ………………………………………………………………………………**

**8. John didn’t follow his father’s advice about his high studies**

**If only john …………………………………………………………………………………………**