

THEME 5 BACK TO THE PAST GRAMMAR

1. WISH CLAUSES

We use wish (if only) + the simple past tense

- to talk about something that we want to be different in the present or the future. We use the past tense but the meaning is present or future.

There are a lot of things to do at work. I wish we didn't have to work today. (but there are a lot of things to do and we have to work today)

I wish I lived in a house by the sea. (I don't live in a house by the sea)

I wish you would stay with us longer. (but you won't stay with us longer)

NOTE: In formal English we use WERE instead of WAS with all subjects.

I wish I were a good basketball player.

We use wish (If only) + the past perfect tense

- to say that we regret something in the past.

I wish I had had enough courage to write you before. (but I didn't have enough courage to write you before.)

I wish I hadn't eaten so much last night.

We use wish (If only) + would

- when we want someone or something to change.

I wish that terrible noise would stop.

- when we want something to occur in the future.

Tina wishes her uncle would visit her soon.

- when we want to complain about something or other people's annoying habits.

I wish my son would stop biting his nails.

NOTE: To talk about our annoying habits, we use could (not would)

I wish I could be tidy.

A. Complete the sentences

1. I went to a party last night but I didn't like it.

I wish _____ (I / not / go)

2. It's boiling hot today and I don't like hot weather.

I wish _____ so hot. (it / not / be)

3. I didn't study hard enough and failed in the exam.

I wish _____ harder. (I / study)

4. I have worked hard all day and now I am very tired to go out with my friends.

I wish _____ so tired. (I / not / be)

5. I am fed up with my little sister's crying all the time.

I wish _____ so often. (she / not / cry)

6. Whatever I did, I couldn't learn how to use this camera.

I wish _____ the instructions more carefully. (I / read)

7. Not being able to speak English fluently is usually a big problem especially when I am applying for a job.

I wish _____ English fluently. (I / speak)

8. I teased one of my best friends yesterday and now she doesn't talk to me.

I wish _____ her. (I / not / tease)

2. IF CLAUSE TYPE 3

We use third conditional for imaginary, situation in the past, regret and criticism.

If + past perfect, would/could/might have + past participle

If they had seen Tom, they would have told me. (But they didn't)

If you had studied harder, you wouldn't have failed the exam. (criticism)

• We can change the order of the clauses by using comma:

He wouldn't have lost his family if he hadn't been addicted to alcohol.

Mixed type conditionals

Sometimes it is possible for the two parts of a conditional sentence to refer to different times. There are two types of mixed conditional sentence.

B. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

1. If he had saved enough money, he _____ (buy) a bigger house.

2. If Pablo _____ (install) some antivirus software, his computer wouldn't have got a virus.

3. I _____ (call) Jack if I had known his number.

4. If I had had a smartphone, I _____ (check) my emails.

5. If Sarah _____ (copy) all her photos onto a CD, she wouldn't have lost them when her computer crashed.

C. Match the sentence halves. One is extra.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. If I hadn't forgotten my wallet at home, | a) if she hadn't lent you some of her money. |
| 2. If I had waited a few days longer, | b) they would have bought a sports car. |
| 3. Julia would have bought that dress | c) I wouldn't have borrowed any money from Jason. |
| 4. She would have stayed for dinner | d) if she hadn't lost the receipt. |
| 5. If the Danolds had afforded it, | e) they would have completed the project earlier. |
| 6. She would have changed the dress | f) if she hadn't promised to meet her father. |
| g) I would have paid less for the jeans. | |

D. Read the dialogue and choose the correct option.

Harriet: I wish you (1) **could reserve/had reserved** a room at another hotel. Our holiday was a real nightmare.

Victor: You're right. If we (2) **had had/had** more money, I would (3) **have done/do** that for sure.

Harriet: I wish you (4) **told/had told** this before going on holiday. If I (5) **knew/had known** that the hotel was a disaster, I would (6) **have preferred/prefer** to stay at home. My sitting room is more comfortable than that hotel.

Victor: Really? I wish I (7) **had/did**. Anyway, you're sometimes really pessimistic. If you (8) **hadn't stayed/wouldn't stay** in the room for five days, you could (9) **see/have seen** that the hotel wasn't so bad at all.

Harriet: Yes, it was all my fault. Everything was perfect, and I just didn't want to have a good time with you!

Viktor: Oh, Harriet. I wish you (10) **hadn't misunderstood/didn't misunderstand** what I had said.

THEME 5 BACK TO THE PAST GRAMMAR ANSWER KEY

1. WISH CLAUSES

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I wish **I HADN'T GONE TO THE PARTY** (I / not/ go)

2. It's boiling hot today and I don't like hot weather.

I wish **IT WEREN'T** so hot. (it / not/ be)

3. I didn't study hard enough and failed in the exam.

I wish **I HAD STUDIED** harder. (I / study)

4. I have worked hard all day and now I am very tired to go out with my friends.

I wish **I WEREN'T** so tired. (I / not / be)

5. I am fed up with my little sister's crying all the time.

I wish **SHE WOULDN'T CRY** so often. (she / not / cry)

6. Whatever I did, I couldn't learn how to use this camera.

I wish **I HAD READ** the instructions more carefully. (I /read)

7. Not being able to speak English fluently is usually a big problem especially when I am applying for a job.

I wish **I SPOKE** English fluently. (I / speak)

8. I teased one of my best friends yesterday and now she doesn't talk to me.

I wish **I HADN'T TEASED** her. (I / not / tease)

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