

## 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.

## **ANSWER KEY**

### **A. Complete the sentences**

1. I wish I hadn't gone to the party.
2. I wish it weren't so hot
3. I wish I had studied harder
4. I wish I weren't so tired
5. I wish she wouldn't cry so often
6. I wish I had read the instructions carefully.
7. I wish I spoke English fluently
8. I wish I hadn't teased her

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

1. WOULD HAVE BOUGHT
2. HAD INSTALLED
3. WOULD HAVE CALLED
4. WOULD HAVE CHECKED
5. HAD COPIED