

Wish and If Only – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 37



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Put the verb in brackets into the correct form. Think about whether the wish is about the present, the past or an annoying habit.

Example: I wish I ___ (be) on holiday right now. → were

1. I wish I _____ (have) more free time, but I work six days a week.
2. If only we _____ (not/miss) the train yesterday. We would have arrived on time.
3. I wish my neighbours _____ (stop) playing loud music every night.
4. Sara wishes she _____ (can) speak Japanese.
5. I wish I _____ (be) taller.
6. If only I _____ (listen) to your advice last year.
7. Do you ever wish you _____ (live) in a different country?
8. I wish I _____ (not/eat) so much cake at the party last night. I feel sick.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

Complete each sentence with one word from the box. Use each word once. There are two extra words.

WORD BOX

would had could hadn't wouldn't knew didn't were will can

9. I wish you _____ stop interrupting me when I'm talking.
10. If only I _____ a car. I hate taking the bus.
11. I wish I _____ come to your party tomorrow, but I'm working.
12. She wishes she _____ said those unkind things to her brother.
13. I wish my brother _____ keep borrowing my clothes without asking!
14. If only I _____ how to fix this laptop.
15. I wish I _____ have to get up so early on Mondays.
16. I wish the weather _____ warmer today.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence using the words in brackets so that the meaning stays the same.

Example: I can't drive. (I wish) → I wish I could drive.

17. I don't have enough money to buy a new phone. (I wish)

18. I didn't study for the exam. (If only)

19. My sister always leaves the door open. It's annoying. (I wish)

20. I can't swim. (I wish)

21. We went to that restaurant and the food was terrible. (I wish ... hadn't)

22. Tom isn't here to help us. (If only)

23. It's a pity you won't tell me the truth. (I wish)

24. I'm sorry I didn't call you on your birthday. (I wish)

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

Example: I wish I can fly. → I wish I could fly.

25. I wish I have a bigger flat.

26. If only I didn't spend all my money last weekend.

27. I wish I would be better at maths.

28. She wishes she can play the guitar.

29. I wish you will stop complaining.

30. Do you wish you have studied medicine instead?

31. If only I knew about the meeting yesterday.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

Example: wish / I / could / I / sing → I wish I could sing.

32. wish / I / I / lived / the / closer / to / city / centre

33. only / If / hadn't / I / my / lost / keys

34. I / you / wish / wouldn't / drive / so / fast

35. she / Does / wish / were / she / older / ?

36. had / If / only / we / earlier / left

37. I / could / wish / I / my / grandparents / visit / more / often

Answer key – Wish and If Only – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

1. **had**
A wish about the present uses wish + past simple.
2. **hadn't missed**
A regret about the past uses if only + past perfect.
3. **would stop**
Wish + would expresses annoyance about someone else's behaviour.
4. **could**
For ability in the present, use wish + could.
5. **were**
After wish we use were (or informally was) for present situations.
6. **had listened**
Last year shows a past regret, so use the past perfect.
7. **lived**
A question about a present wish still uses the past simple after wish.
8. **hadn't eaten**
Last night shows a past regret, so use the negative past perfect.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

9. **would**
Wish + would is used to complain about another person's habit.
10. **had**
A present wish about possession uses the past simple had.
11. **could**
Wish + could expresses an ability or possibility we don't have.
12. **hadn't**
Regret about a past action uses the negative past perfect.
13. **wouldn't**
Wish + wouldn't complains about a habit we want to stop.
14. **knew**
A present wish uses the past simple of know.
15. **didn't**
A negative present wish uses didn't + infinitive.
16. **were**
Wish + were is used for a present situation we want to be different.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

17. **I wish I had enough money to buy a new phone.**
A negative present fact becomes a positive wish with the past simple.
18. **If only I had studied for the exam.**
A negative past fact becomes a positive regret with the past perfect.
19. **I wish my sister wouldn't leave the door open.**
An annoying habit is expressed with wish + wouldn't.
20. **I wish I could swim.**
Can't becomes could after wish.
21. **I wish we hadn't gone to that restaurant.**
A past action we regret becomes wish + hadn't + past participle.
22. **If only Tom were here to help us.**
A negative present fact becomes a positive wish with were or was.
23. **I wish you would tell me the truth.**
Wish + would shows we want someone to change their behaviour.
24. **I wish I had called you on your birthday.**
A past regret uses wish + past perfect.

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

25. **I wish I had a bigger flat.**
Use the past simple, not the present, after wish for present situations.
26. **If only I hadn't spent all my money last weekend.**
Last weekend is in the past, so use the past perfect.
27. **I wish I were better at maths.**
We don't use wish + would with the same subject (I ... I); use the past simple.
28. **She wishes she could play the guitar.**
Can changes to could after wish.
29. **I wish you would stop complaining.**
Use would, not will, after wish to talk about someone's annoying behaviour.
30. **Do you wish you had studied medicine instead?**
A regret about a past choice needs the past perfect.
31. **If only I had known about the meeting yesterday.**
Yesterday shows a past regret, so use the past perfect.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

32. I wish I lived closer to the city centre.

Wish + past simple expresses a present wish.

33. If only I hadn't lost my keys.

If only + past perfect expresses a strong past regret.

34. I wish you wouldn't drive so fast.

Wish + wouldn't complains about someone's behaviour.

35. Does she wish she were older?

In questions, the auxiliary does comes before the subject, and were follows wish.

36. If only we had left earlier.

If only + past perfect shows regret about the past.

37. I wish I could visit my grandparents more often.

Wish + could talks about something we are not able to do now.

Notes for teachers: Start by eliciting three timelines on the board: present (wish + past simple/could), past (wish + past perfect) and annoying habits (wish + would). Common mistakes include using present tenses after wish, using would with the subject I (I wish I would...), and using the past simple instead of the past perfect for past regrets. Point out that both were and was are accepted after I/he/she, but were is more formal. As a follow-up, ask learners to write five personal wishes and regrets, then share them in pairs.