

Expressing wishes and regrets:

1. *wish + past simple* – **present/future wish**
 - I wish I **had** more time.
 - I wish you **didn't have** to leave so soon.
 - I wish the world **were** a better place.
2. *wish + past perfect* – **regret about the past**
 - I wish I **had said** something.
 - I wish you **hadn't lent** me that money.
 - I wish Trump **hadn't been** elected.
3. *wish + would + infinitive* – **expression of annoyance at another person's actions**
 - I wish you would shut up.
 - I wish my neighbor's dog wouldn't bark at night.
- *Wish* can be substituted for *if only*.
 - If only I had more time
 - If only you hadn't lent me that money.
 - If only my neighbor's dog wouldn't bark at night

Notice that we use the past simple to express a present wish and the past perfect to express a past wish. This is because these wishes are unreal situations. It may be helpful at this stage to show your students the similarities to conditional statements.

Discussion Questions:

1. What bad habit do you wish you could stop?
2. What regret do you have from your time at university?
3. Who do you wish you could see this weekend?
4. What present do you wish you had received last Christmas?
5. What would you have in your house if only you had more space?
6. What do you regret not doing more often when you were younger?
7. What do you wish politicians wouldn't do?
8. What goal do you wish you had started working on sooner?