

WISH STRUCTURES

WISH + PAST we use it when we want something to be different from what it is.

I wish I could speak Japanese.
I wish I were like you, calmer.

I wish I traveled more.

Write sentences beginning **I wish ...**

- 1 I don't know many people (and I'm lonely). I wish I knew more people.
- 2 I don't have a computer (and I need one). I wish I had a computer.
- 3 Helen isn't here (and I need to see her). I wish I could see Helen.
- 4 It's cold (and I hate cold weather). I wish it wasn't cold.
- 5 I live in a big city (and I don't like it). I wish I lived in a small city.
- 6 I can't go to the party (and I'd like to). I wish I went to the party.
- 7 I have to get up early tomorrow (but I'd like to sleep late).
I wish I slept more.
- 8 I don't know anything about cars (and my car has just broken down).
I wish I knew more about cars.
- 9 I'm not feeling well (and it's not nice).
I wish I wasn't feeling bad.

Write your own sentences beginning **I wish ...**

- 1 (somewhere you'd like to be now – on the beach, in New York, in bed etc.)
I wish I were in Italy.
- 2 (something you'd like to have – a motorbike, more friends, lots of money etc.)
I wish I had a car.
- 3 (something you'd like to be able to do – sing, travel more, cook etc.)
I wish I could travel every month.
- 4 (something you'd like to be – beautiful, strong, younger etc.)
I wish I were rich.

WISH + PAST PERFECT we use it to talk about things we wanted to be different in the past.

I wish I had told her my secret (I didn't tell her my secret).
I wish I had watched Daniel's concert last week.
I wish I had started learning English earlier.

Imagine that you are in these situations. For each situation, write a sentence with **I wish**.

- 1 You've eaten too much and now you feel sick.
You say: I wish I hadn't eaten so much.
- 2 There was a job advertised in the paper. You decided not to apply for it. Now you think that your decision was wrong.
You say: I wish I had applied for the job.
- 3 When you were younger, you never learned to play a musical instrument. Now you regret this.
You say: I wish I had learned how to play an instrument.
- 4 You've painted the gate red. Now you think that red was the wrong colour.
You say: I wish I hadn't painted the gate red.
- 5 You are walking in the country. You'd like to take some pictures, but you didn't bring your camera.
You say: I wish I had brought my camera.
- 6 You have some unexpected guests. They didn't phone you first to say they were coming. You are very busy and you are not prepared for them.
You say (to yourself): I wish they had called me first.

WISH + WOULD When you want something to be different but it won't.
You never say I wish I would.

I wish politicians wouldn't lie.
I wish my boss would give me a raise.

What do you say in these situations? Write sentences with **I wish ... would ...**

- 1 It's raining. You want to go out, but not in the rain.
You say: I wish it would stop raining.
- 2 You're waiting for Jane. She's late and you're getting impatient.
You say to yourself: I wish Jane would be late.
- 3 You're looking for a job – so far without success. Nobody will give you a job.
You say: I wish somebody would give me a job.
- 4 You can hear a baby crying. It's been crying for a long time and you're trying to study.
You say: I wish the baby wouldn't be crying.
- 5 Brian has been wearing the same clothes for years. You think he needs some new clothes.
You say to Brian: I wish you would buy some new clothes.

For the following situations, write sentences with **I wish ... wouldn't ...**

- 6 Your friend drives very fast. You don't like this.
You say to your friend: I wish you wouldn't drive so fast.
- 7 Joe leaves the door open all the time. This annoys you.
You say to Joe: I wish you wouldn't leave the door open.
- 8 A lot of people drop litter in the street. You don't like this.
You say: I wish people wouldn't drop litter in the street.