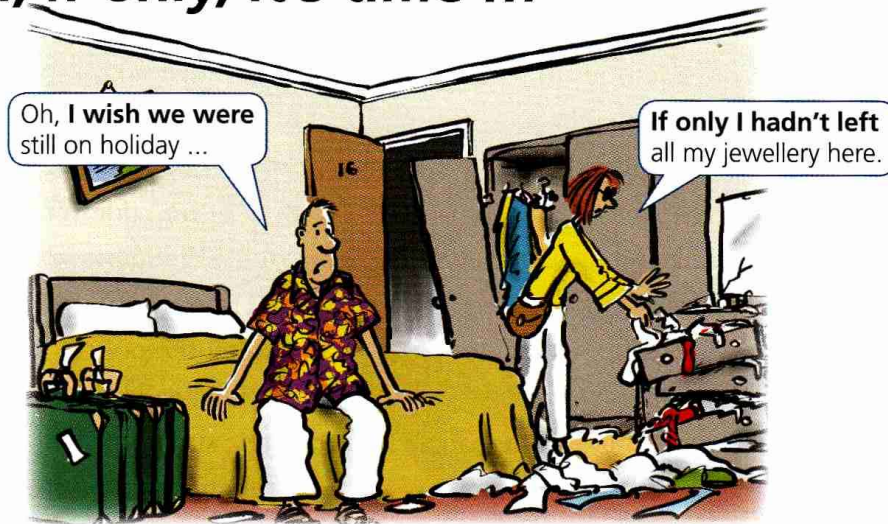


58 *I wish, if only, it's time ...*



1 *wish and if only + past simple/would*

We use *wish* + past simple to talk about present situations, when we are unhappy with the situation:

I wish we were still on holiday. (We aren't on holiday now.)

We wish we didn't live so far away. (We live too far away to see our friends.)

I wish we had a new car. (Our car keeps breaking down.)

If only means the same but it can have a little more emphasis:

If only I didn't get angry so easily! (= I get angry easily, but I don't like it.)

⚠ We don't use *wish* or *if only* with a present tense:

~~*I wish I have a better job.*~~ ✓ *I wish I had a better job.*

⚠ To express a wish about the future, we use *hope* + present tense verb, not *wish*:

~~*I wish you have a good holiday.*~~ ✓ *I hope you have a good holiday.*

We can use *wish/if only + would (not)* to talk about a habit in someone else that we would like to change:

If only Jenny would talk about her problems. *I wish you wouldn't bite your nails!*

2 *wish and if only + past perfect*

We use *wish/if only + past perfect* to talk about a past situation or action that we regret:

I've failed my exams. I wish I'd studied harder.

If only I hadn't left all my jewellery here. I left it in the drawer and it's been stolen.

I'm really tired. I wish I'd gone to bed earlier.

⚠ We don't use *wish/if only* with the past simple if we want to talk about the past:

~~*If only I didn't shout at my boss last week.*~~ ✓ *If only I hadn't shouted at my boss last week.*

3 *it's time and would rather*

We use the past tense after *it's time* and *would rather* when we are talking about the present.

• *it's (about) time* means we think that someone should do something:

Come on – it's time we went home. It's about time you got on the plane.

• *it's high time + a past simple verb* is stronger and suggests that the action is urgent:

It's high time you started looking for a flat of your own! You can't stay here for ever.

• We can also use the infinitive with *to* (with or without *for + object pronoun*):

Come on – it's time (for us) to go home. It's about time (for you) to get on the plane.


We use *would rather* to say what we prefer:

I'd rather we stayed at home. (= I'd prefer to stay ...)

We'd rather we didn't go by plane. (= We'd prefer not to go ...)

Would you rather I paid you now or later? (= Would you prefer me to pay you now or later?)

Practice

- 1 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Read the letter from a man in prison to his wife. Choose the correct underlined words.  3.49 Listen and check.

My dearest Monique

I can't begin to tell you how much I miss you. If only I (0) didn't listen / hadn't listened to Tommy Evans all those months ago when he said he wanted a driver to take him to the airport. Obviously, I wish the police (1) didn't catch / hadn't caught us at the warehouse, but I wish even more that I (2) didn't believe / hadn't believed his story.

Well, I'm here now, and I suppose I'm lucky that it's only for two years. I just wish that I (3) am / was closer to home. If only you (4) could visit / could have visited me more often, then I'm sure life would be easier.

Things aren't too bad here, really. I can work during the day and the evenings are OK, but the nights are awful – I really wish the other prisoners (5) would make / wouldn't make so much noise at night, and I wish I (6) can / could get some more sleep.

Well, I'd better go. It's time (7) I join / to join the others for 'evening activities'. I do enjoy getting letters from you and I wish you (8) would write / write to me more often. I (9) wish / hope that I'll see you soon, but I'd rather (10) you don't bring / you didn't bring the children – I don't want them to see me here.

- 2 Complete the sentences with *would* / *wouldn't* and a verb from the box.

 3.50 Listen and check.

close (not) leave (not) make (not) play turn off ~~wash up~~

- 0 I wish you would wash up after you've eaten.
 1 I wish you your clothes in the living room.
 2 I wish you phone calls late at night.
 3 I wish you the fridge door.
 4 I wish you music really loudly.
 5 I wish you the TV and talk to me!

- 3 Find and correct the mistakes in each sentence.

- 0 I wish I ~~didn't turn down~~ ^{hadn't turned down} that job offer last week.
 1 We'd rather you don't bring your children with you.
 2 If only we have enough money for a new kitchen.
 3 We wish you get good news from your son next week.
 4 Would you rather went to the mountains this year?
 5 I wish you won't criticise me in front of your friends.
 6 Isn't it time the gas bill to come?

- 4 Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

- 0 I wish my parents wouldn't treat me like a child
 1 I wish my best friend
 2 If only I hadn't bought!
 3 I'd rather people didn't
 4 I wish I could

ANSWER KEY

- 8** 1 You *aren't allowed to/can't/mustn't* play football in this park.
 2 We *don't have to/don't need to/needn't* buy batteries – they are included.
 3 I think we *should/ought to* cook this in the microwave.
 4 How *about trying the keep fit class* tomorrow evening?
 5 She *can't be* thirty ...
 6 We'd *better bring those plants in* from the garden ...
 7 Only adults *are allowed to/can* buy this product.
 8 I *might/could have met* someone famous!
 9 That looks interesting. *Shall we go inside* ...
 10 This *could/might be the chance* you've been waiting for.

TEST

- 1 C 2 B 3 A 4 A 5 B 6 A 7 B 8 C
 9 B 10 A 11 C 12 C 13 C 14 B 15 A
 16 B 17 C 18 A 19 A 20 B

Module 10

UNIT 54

- 1** 1 E 2 F 3 D 4 A 5 B 6 G
2 1 If you *don't cover* it, someone *might see* it.
 2 ... a thief *will confuse/might confuse* you by talking to you if you *allow* him to.
 3 ... thieves *will be able to* get into your accounts if you *don't have* proper security.
 4 If it *doesn't have* one, it *won't be* secure enough.
 5 ... if you *tell* your PIN number to another person ..., your credit card company *might not return/won't return* your money.
3 1 ~~if case~~ in case
 2 ~~unless~~ if
 3 ✓
 4 ~~when~~ if
 5 ~~won't be~~ isn't
 6 ✓
 7 Even ~~if~~ my boss
 8 ~~will be~~ is
 9 ~~provided~~ in case
 10 ✓

UNIT 55

- 1** 1 A 2 A 3 B 4 B 5 A
2 1 was/were, would 2 wouldn't, was/were
 3 Suppose/Imagine/If, be 4 unless, was/were (or if, wasn't/weren't 5 asked, would 6 could, would/might
3 1 didn't give him any (money) 2 were you
 3 wouldn't 4 wouldn't talk to the police
 5 spoke to his teachers 6 will be able to help you

UNIT 56

- 1** 1 C would/could have 2 A could have 3 E wouldn't have 4 B could have 5 F wouldn't have
2 1 hadn't bought 2 wouldn't have taken
 3 hadn't gone back 4 might not have called
 5 had asked
3 1 If I hadn't spent all my money on clothes last year, I could have afforded a holiday.
 2 If I had noticed the speed camera, I wouldn't have got a fine (for driving too fast).
 3 If I hadn't broken my leg on a skiing trip, I could / might have become a footballer.
 4 If I hadn't eaten some fish which was bad, I wouldn't have been ill.
Model answers
 5 *If I hadn't left my job, I might have become a manager.*
 6 *If I had listened to my parents, I wouldn't have left school so early.*

UNIT 57

- 1** 1 AF BT 2 AT BF 3 AF BF 4 AT BT
 5 AF BF
2 1 would you do 2 had cancelled 3 wouldn't have bought 4 wouldn't have married 5 hadn't got married, couldn't enjoy
3 1 ... we wouldn't have mass air travel today
 2 ... Bill Gates hadn't started Microsoft 3 ... they wouldn't have elected Barack Obama 4 ... we had had a cure for malaria 5 ... the world would be very different

UNIT 58

- 1** 1 hadn't caught 2 hadn't believed 3 was
 4 could visit 5 wouldn't make 6 could 7 to join 8 would write 9 hope 10 you didn't bring
2 1 wouldn't leave 2 wouldn't make 3 would close 4 wouldn't play 5 would turn off
3 1 ~~don't~~ didn't
 2 ~~have~~ had
 3 ~~wish~~ hope
 4 ~~went~~ go/we went
 5 ~~won't~~ wouldn't
 6 time ~~the gas bill to come~~ for the gas bill to come/ the gas bill came
4 Model answers
 1 *I wish my best friend would phone me more often.*
 2 *If only I hadn't bought those Manolo Blahnik shoes!*
 3 *I'd rather people didn't talk to me on the train.*
 4 *I wish I could play a musical instrument.*

REVIEW

- 1** 1 is 2 in case 3 would 4 will, don't 5 Suppose, would 6 if 7 doesn't have 8 would, offered
2 1 If the bank manager *hadn't called a doctor*, Tina wouldn't have gone to hospital.
 2 If Tina *hadn't been (waiting) at the hospital*, she wouldn't have met an old schoolfriend.
 3 If they *hadn't had to wait for a long time*, Tina might not/wouldn't have told her friend about her business.
 4 If Tina's friend *hadn't just received a lot of money*, she couldn't/wouldn't have invested in Tina's business.