

## Wish / If only (Nivel C1)

Use:

**Wish** and **If only** can be used:

a) To wish for an ability now or in the future.

*I wish I could play the guitar!*

*If only I could dance like that!*

*I wish I could go to your wedding next week, but I can't.*

*If only I could see my grandmother more often, but I can't.*

b) To wish that something could be true at the moment.

*I wish I had long hair!      If only I were taller!*

c) To wish that something was happening at the moment.

*I wish I was lying on the beach right now!      If only I was lying on the beach right now!*

d) To wish that something kept happening again and again, or to wish it could stop happening.

*I wish you wouldn't shout so loudly.      If only he wouldn't shout so loudly.*

e) To wish that something in the past had happened in a different way.

*I wish I had studied for my exam!      If only I hadn't argued with him!*

Form:

- To wish for an ability now or in the future.

**I wish (that) / If only + subject + could + infinitive verb**

*I wish that I could sing.*

*If only I could come to Australia too!*

- To wish that something could be true at the moment.

**I wish (that) / If only + subject + past simple**

*I wish I had a pony.*

*I wish I was rich.*

When using the verb 'be', you can use 'were' for all persons.

*I wish I were rich.      If only I were rich.*

- To wish that something was happening at the moment.

**I wish (that) / If only + subject + past continuous**

*I wish that this traffic was moving.*

*If only this traffic was/were moving!*

- To wish that something kept happening again and again, or to wish it could stop happening.

**I wish (that) / If only + subject + would + past participle**

*I wish you would tidy up more often.*

Often: **I wish (that) / If only + subject + would stop + verb-ing**

*I wish he would stop shouting.*

**I wish (that) / If only + subject + wouldn't keep + verb-ing**

*I wish you wouldn't keep hitting me.*

- To wish that something in the past had happened in a different way.

**I wish (that) / If only + past perfect**

*I wish I had studied for my exam!*

*If only I hadn't argued with him!*

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