

COMMUNICATION

# Expressing wishes

**LEVEL**

Upper-Intermediate  
(B2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B2\_1034X

**LANGUAGE**

English

## Learning outcomes

- I can distinguish between the verbs *to wish* and *to hope*.
- I can express wishes about the present and the past.



# Warm-up

Have you ever made a **wish** before?



When did you make it?

What was it about?



# Expressing wishes

- In English, we **wish** somebody **something**.
- e.g. **we wish** somebody **luck**, **all the best** and, of course, **a happy birthday**!



I **wish** you **all the best** for the future.

My auntie rang me last night to **wish** me **a happy birthday**.





# *I wish or I hope?*



I **hope** you enjoy your holiday next week.



Thanks! I'm **hoping** we get good weather!

- We don't say: *I wish something **happens**.*
- Use **hope** for that:
  - *I **hope** (that) something happens*

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~~I wish~~ you enjoy your holiday  
Let's ~~wish~~ we get good weather



# Choose the correct option

1 Thank you very much for your purchase. We \_\_\_\_\_ that you enjoy using it!

a. hope

b. wish

2 The Said Family \_\_\_\_\_ you all a very happy Eid Mubarak.

a. hopes

b. wishes

3 \_\_\_\_\_ you make a speedy recovery and get back on your feet soon!

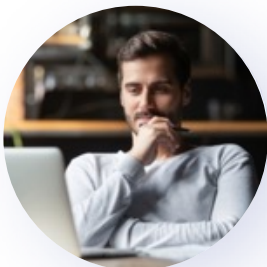
a. hoping

b. wishing



# Expressing wishes about the present

- We use **wish** or **if only** + a **past tense** to make wishes about the **present**.



I **wish** I **had** more money.

**If only** we **were lying** on a beach right now!



We use a **past tense** here,  
but the meaning is  
**present!**



# Expressing wishes about the present

- With the verb **to be**, we use **were** with I / he / she / it instead of **was**.



I wish I **were** taller!

If only it **were** that simple!







If only life **was** that easy!

However, in speaking, you will often hear **was** and not **were** in this context.

**Were** is more commonly used in formal settings or in writing.



# Re-write with *wish* or *if only*

**Read** each situation. **Re-write** it with *wish* or *if only*.

1 I am not very tall.



I wish I **were** taller.

2 I can't speak perfect English



3 My hair isn't curly.



4 My spelling is terrible.



5 I don't have a dog.



6 I have to get up early every single day.



# What would you change?

1. **Think** of three things you wish were different about your life.
2. **Write** a sentence about each one and **give** a reason why.



Use the questions below to help you!



What's a language you would love to be able to speak, but can't?

Where's somewhere you've always wanted to live?

What's a pet you've always dreamed of having?

What's a talent you've always wanted to have?

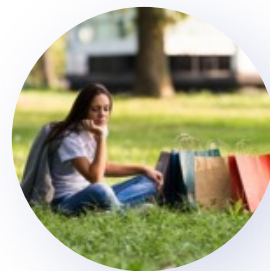
# Expressing wishes about the past

- We use **wish** or **if only** + **past perfect** for wishes about the **past**.



**I wish I had studied** harder for the exam. I probably wouldn't have failed it!

**If only I hadn't spent** so much money on clothes!



**Past perfect**  
*had + past participle*



# Expressing wishes about the past

- Another way of expressing a **wish** about the **past** is with **should have** + **past participle**.



I **should have called** him yesterday to wish him a happy birthday. I can't believe I forgot!

We really **should have gone** somewhere warmer on holiday. It's far too cold here in Sweden!





# Form sentences

**Complete** 4-6 with your own ideas.

1 I wish / buy / the tickets last week.



I wish **I had bought** the tickets last week.

2 If only / I / let / them know about the party.



3 We / should / call / you sooner.



4 If only / we / make / more...



5 I wish / spend / less time...



6 I should / tell / you about...



# Write a bucket list

Write a list of **5 things** you hope to do before you die.



Here are **six photos** to inspire you!

1



4



2



5



3



6



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**Keep your list!** You'll need it on the next slide.





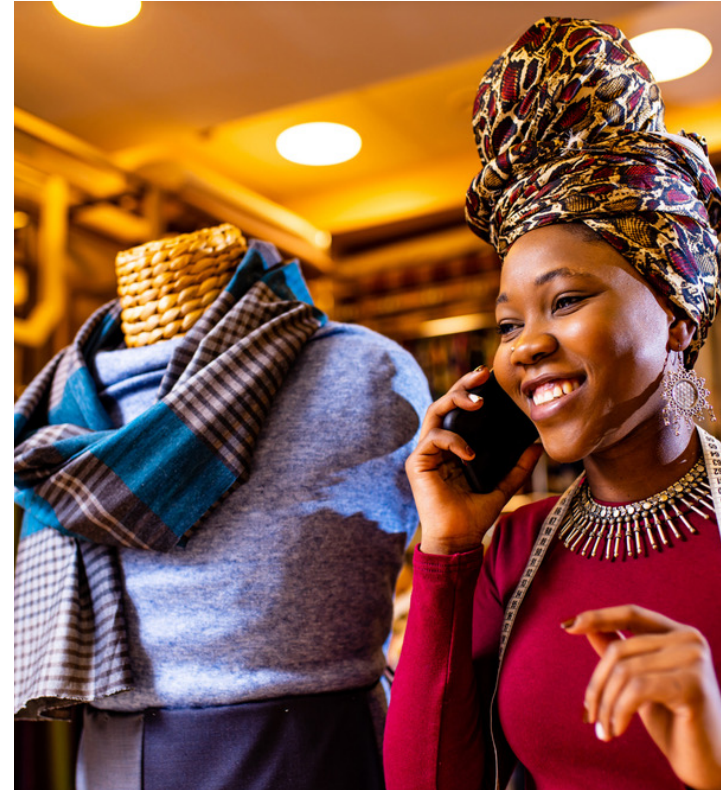
# Interview a classmate

1. **Imagine** you and your classmates are all **85 years old**.
2. **Interview** a classmate about their life in **breakout rooms**.
3. **Share** their biggest regret with the class.

1 What's something you dreamed of doing and did?

2 What are some things you wish you had done?

3 What's one thing you should have done more of?





# End of the lesson

Idiom

***ask for the moon***

**Meaning:** to ask for something that is difficult or impossible to get

**Example:** I wish I had a decent paying job. I'm hardly **asking for the moon** here!



# Additional practice



# Fill in the gaps

Be **careful** with your tenses!

1. What I said was unkind. I'm sorry, I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ it. **(not / say)**
2. You gave me some good tips. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ your advice. **(take)**
3. If only we \_\_\_\_\_ earlier. **(meet)**
4. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ you yesterday, but I need to leave early today. **(tell)**
5. If only we \_\_\_\_\_ for lunch on the way to the airport. We would have caught the flight! **(not / stop)**





# Write a sentence for each person

Share your sentences with the class.

***What should or shouldn't each of these people have done?***



Tim



Terry



Jenny



George



# Writing

1. **Read** the prompt below.
2. **Write** a short email of 60-80 words.

Imagine you left your job last year to find a better one. However, since then things haven't turned out how you'd planned.

Write an email to a friend saying what you wish you'd done instead and why.



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# Answer key

**P. 6:** 1. a, 2. b, 3. a

**P. 9:** 2. I wish/if only I could speak perfect English.  
3. I wish/if only my hair was (*or were*) curly.  
4. I wish/if only my spelling wasn't (*or weren't*) terrible.  
5. I wish/if only I had a dog.  
6. I wish/if only I didn't have to get up early every single day.

**P. 13:** 2. If only I had let them know about the party.  
3. We should have called you sooner.  
4. If only they had made more..  
5. I wish I had spent less time...  
6. I should have told you about...

**P. 19:** 1. hadn't said.  
2. had taken.  
3. had spoken.  
4. had told.  
5. hadn't stopped



# Summary

## Expressing wishes

- In English, we wish somebody **something**. eg. *I wish you luck; We wish him all the best.*
- We don't say *I wish* something happens. Use **hope** for that. eg. *I hope that we get good weather.*

## Wishes about the present

- We use **wish** or **if only** + a **past tense** for wishes about the **present**. eg. *I wish I had more money!*
- With the verb **to be**, we use **were** with *I / he / she / it* instead of **was**. eg. *I wish I were taller!*

## Wishes about the past

- We use **wish** or **if only** + **past perfect** for wishes about the **past**. eg. *If only I had gone to the party.*
- Remember the past perfect is **had** + **past participle**. eg. *I had bought the shoes.*

## Should have + past participle

- Another way of expressing a **wish** about the **past** is with **should have** + **past participle**.
- eg. *We really should have gone somewhere warmer on holiday. It's far too cold here in Sweden!*



# Vocabulary

I wish

if only

should have

