

Talking About Regret In English Grammar Structure

with + past perfect

I wish I had/hadn't gotten this tattoo!

I REGRET + ING

One option for talking about regrets is simply by using the expression, "I regret," and the I-N-G form of the verb.

If my mistake was I dropped out of school, I didn't finish my studies then I could say, "I regret dropping out of school."

That's a very simple phrase you can use to express your regrets but English has a really large variety of different phrases you can use in every situation

I SHOULD/SHOULDN'T HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE

The first one, you can say, "I **should have or I shouldn't have**," plus the past participle of the verb. In our example I can say, "I shouldn't have dropped out of school. I should have stayed in school." I say, "I shouldn't have," and I talk about the bad thing that I did and I can make a different statement by saying, "I should have," and describe the positive action that I wish I had taken instead.

"I shouldn't have dropped out of school, I should have stayed or I should have continued my studies."

I WISH I HAD/HADN'T + PAST PARTICIPLE

We have something similar with, **"I wish."**

This is talking about things you wish were different in the past.

You can say: **"I wish I had or I wish I hadn't,"** and again, that's followed by the past participle of the verb. I can say, **"I wish I hadn't dropped out of school. I wish I had stayed in school. I wish I had continued my studies."**

IF I COULD DO IT OVER AGAIN, I WOULD / WOULDN'T + BASE FORM

Another common phrase is this one: "If I could do it over again I would or I wouldn't."

These are followed by the base form of the verb.

"If I could do it over again, I would stay in school, or I wouldn't drop out of school."

In this phrase we're imagining that the past was different. You can also say, *"If I could go back in time, or if I had a second chance. If I had a second chance, I wouldn't drop out of school, I would stay in school."*

Those are all phrases you can use to talk about wishing the past was different.

NOW I KNOW THAT _____ING WAS A BAD IDEA

"Now I know that dropping out of school was a bad idea."

That's one more phrase that you can use to talk about your regrets in English.

Rewrite the sentences below so that they express regret.

1. Since we hadn't booked a hotel, it took us three hours to find a room for the night.

If we _____ spent three hours looking for one.

2. It was silly to have said to your sister that I hated her.

I regret that I told _____.

3. You shouldn't have cheated on the test!

I can't believe _____!

4. Umut messed up his interview, so he didn't get the job. 😞

If _____ the job.

5. I regret buying that watch.

I wish _____.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGylu5RFSEA> Arkadaşlar bu videoyu da izleyin. Regret'leri ifade etmek için işinize yarar.

<https://learningenglish.voanews.com/a/three-phrases-for-expressing-regret-in-english/5558739.html> Bu da işinize yarar

Useful phrases in expressing regret!

I wish I had ...

I wish I had stopped him from committing the crime.

I shouldn't have ...

I shouldn't have trusted you. You are such a liar!

If only I had ...

If only I had explained that clearly, she wouldn't have left me.

If I could do it over again, I would ...

If I could do it over again, I would put more effort into studying for the exam.

Now that I know ... was a bad idea.

Now that I know playing Scramble was a bad idea. It was boring.