

15

Chapter Fifteen

wish, need & dare

The main use of 'wish' is to say that we would like things to be different from what they are. If you are wishing for a different present situation, the tense that follows "wish" is past simple or past continuous.

If you are wishing that a past situation was different, the tense that comes after "wish" is past perfect. You can also use "wish" with modal verbs in English.

- I wish I was rich./ He wishes he lived in Paris.
- They wish they'd chosen a different leader.

1. In present situations

- I'm too fat. I wish I was thin.
- I never get invited to parties. I wish I got invited to parties.
- It's raining. I wish it wasn't raining.
- I've eaten too much. I wish I hadn't eaten so much.
- I don't like this place. **I wish I lived** somewhere more interesting.
- These seats are very uncomfortable. **I wish we were travelling** first class.
- I **am going** to London next week. "I wish I **wasn't going** there."
- I **haven't studied** for the English test. "I wish I **had studied** for the English test."

Note that Here the sentences using “was/were/had” etc is in fact not sentences of the past but it is imagination at present.

2. In past situations (Wish + (that) + past perfect)

Situation: I **didn't go** on holiday this year. (Verb "to go" is in past simple)

Wish: "I wish I **had gone** on holiday this year. (Verb "to go" is in past perfect.)

We can use 'wish' with the past perfect to talk about regrets from the past.

These are things that have already happened but we wish they should have happened in a different way. This use of 'wish' is very similar to the **third conditional**.

- I wish that I had studied harder at school.
(I didn't study hard at school, and now I'm sorry about it.)
- I wish that I hadn't eaten so much yesterday!
(But I did eat a lot yesterday. Now I think it wasn't a good idea.)
- I wish that the train had been on time.
(But unfortunately, the train was late, and so I missed my interview.)

3. Express desire (Wish + that + past simple)

We can use 'wish' to talk about something that we would like to be different in the present or the future. It's used for things that are impossible or very unlikely.

- I wish that I had a big house
(I don't have a big house, but it's a nice idea!).
- I wish that Mahesh wasn't busy tomorrow*
(he is busy, unfortunately).
- I wish that Mahesh wouldn't eat all the chocolate.
- I wish that you wouldn't smoke so much!
- I wish that you wouldn't work late so often.

4. With modal verbs

We use 'could' with 'wish' to talk about ability and to talk about the possibility.

- I wish that I could speak Spanish
(but, unfortunately, I can't speak Spanish).
- I wish that I could drive (I can't drive).
- I wish that we could go to the party tonight
(unfortunately, we can't go).

Situation: I **can't** play a musical instrument.

Wish: "I wish I **could** play a musical instrument."

In the case of 'will', where 'will' means 'show willingness' we use 'would'.

- He won't help me. I wish he would help me.
- You're making too much noise. I wish you would be quiet.
- You keep interrupting me. I wish you wouldn't do that.

Where 'will' means a future event, we cannot use 'wish' and must use 'hope'.

- There's a strike tomorrow. I hope some buses will still, be running.
- I hope everything will be fine in your new job.

In more formal English, we use the subjunctive form 'were' and not 'was' after 'wish'.

- I wish I were taller.
- I wish it were Saturday today.

5. To refer to habits and free will

(offer, intension, purpose, determination, etc)

Situation: He whistles in the office.

Wish: I wish he **wouldn't whistle** in the office.

(In this sentence you are stressing the fact he wants to whistle and makes a habit of it.)

- They don't like me. I'm sure they wish I would resign.
- I wish that he wouldn't smoke so much.

6. Other uses of 'wish'

'I wish to' can mean the same as 'I want to' but it is very formal and less common.

- I wish to make a complaint. / I wish to see the manager.

You can also use 'wish' with a noun to 'offer good wishes'.

- I wish you all the best in your new job.
- We wish you a Merry Christmas.

Notice that when you want to offer good wishes using a verb, you must use 'hope' and not 'wish'.

- We wish you the best of luck.
- We hope you have the best of luck.
- I wish you a safe and a pleasant journey.

Need & Dare

These verbs are often called "semi-modals" because they are partly like modal helping verbs and partly like main verbs.

Need- is a verb and auxiliary, that we use to give meaning “necessity”

1. Need I tell you anything more?
2. Need you all to go to a movie on Christmas day?
3. We need not go to a movie today.

Sentence structure : future in past –

1. Need Ramesh have beaten up this child so badly for a simple mistake?
2. He need not have beaten up the child at all.
3. I needn't have attended the class at all today.
4. Need they have purchased so many dresses?

Dare- is verb and auxiliary that we use for giving the meaning of “courage”

1. How dare you insult me like this?
2. Do you dare touch a live snake?
3. They can not dare to go on the picnic without me.
4. That man can not dare to hit my brother in my presence