

WISH STATEMENTS - EXPRESSING UNREALITY

We use **WISH** or **IF ONLY** to describe unreality. When we use **WISH** we are speaking about what we want or desire, but we know that it is **unrealistic** or **impossible**. When we use **WISH in the past**, we are expressing a **regret**.

TO WISH ABOUT THE PRESENT

<p>WISH / *IF ONLY + V2 (or continuous form)</p> <p>I wish I had a car. (But I don't have one and don't expect to have one any time soon.)</p> <p>She wishes it weren't raining. (It's raining and there is nothing she can do about it.)</p> <p>If only it weren't raining, we could go to the beach.</p>	<p>WISH / *IF ONLY + DIDN'T + V1</p> <p>Scott wishes he didn't need to wash the car. (But he must wash it.)</p> <p>I wish Miami didn't have such a terrible baseball team. (The team is horrible and I can't change that.)</p> <p>If only Miami didn't have such a terrible baseball team, I would go to the games more often.</p>
<p>**If only' is often used as a passing remark in spoken English.</p>	

WISH WITH MODAL VERBS

<p>WISH + COULD (NOT) + V1 (to express a desire about an ability)</p> <p>I wish I could fly. (to express a desire to have a particular ability)</p> <p>She wishes she could speak Chinese.</p>
<p>WISH + *WOULD (NOT) + V1 (to show annoyance or irritation)</p> <p>I wish he would stop complaining. (I am annoyed with him.)</p> <p>The teacher wishes you wouldn't keep coming late for class. (The teacher is irritated about your tardiness.)</p> <p><i>*Be careful, one can not use "I wish I would....."</i></p>

TO WISH ABOUT THE PAST

<p>WISH / *IF ONLY + HAD + (NOT) + V3</p> <p>I wish I had studied more when I was young. (I didn't study enough.)</p> <p>If only I had studied more, I might have been a physicist.</p> <p>She wishes she had not gone out last night. (She went out and now she regrets it.)</p>
<p>**If only' is often used as a passing remark in spoken English.</p>

WISH & WANT

<p>WISH is sometimes used in the place of WANT in formal situations. When we use WISH in this type of situation, it is followed by an INFINITIVE.</p> <p>EXAMPLE: I wish to speak to the manager. / The director wishes to talk to you. I want to speak to the manager. / The director wants to talk to you.</p>
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WISH IN FIXED EXPRESSIONS

<p>We often use WISH in certain expressions. This form of WISH is not the same as the forms above, but is simply a greeting.</p> <p>I wish you a Merry Christmas. / Best wishes. / To wish someone good luck etc.</p>
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