

structures after wish

wish + would / wouldn't



I wish cyclists **wouldn't cycle** on the pavement! (3 15))
 I wish you'd **spend** a bit more time with the children.
 I wish the bus **would come**. I'm freezing.
 I wish you **wouldn't leave** your shoes there. I almost fell over them.

We use *wish* + person / thing + *would* to talk about things we want to happen, or stop happening because they annoy us.

- You can't use *wish* + *would* for a wish about yourself, e.g. NOT *I wish I would...*

wish + past simple or past perfect

- 1 I wish **I was** ten years younger! (3 18))
 I wish **I could** understand what they're saying.
 2 I wish **I hadn't bought** those shoes.
 I wish **you'd told** me the truth.

- 1 We use *wish* + past simple to talk about things we would like to be different in the present / future (but which are impossible or unlikely).
 • After *wish* you can use *was* or *were* with *I*, *he*, *she*, and *it*, e.g. *I wish I was / were taller*.
 2 We use *wish* + past perfect to talk about things that happened or didn't happen in the past and which you now regret.



If only...

We can also use *If only* instead of *I wish* in all these structures, e.g. *If only he'd hurry up!* *If only I had a bit more money.* *If only she hadn't told him about the affair!*

a Write sentences with *I wish...would / wouldn't*.

It annoys me that... you don't put away your clothes.

I wish you'd put away your clothes!

It annoys me that...

- shop assistants aren't more polite
- you turn the heating up all the time
- my sister doesn't tidy our room
- the neighbour's dog barks at night
- it doesn't stop raining
- Jane talks about her boyfriend so much
- my dad sings in front of my friends
- you drive so fast!
- my husband doesn't do the washing-up
- the bus doesn't come

b Complete with the verb in the past simple or past perfect.

I wish I was a bit thinner! My clothes don't fit me! (be)

- I wish I _____ naturally blonde hair! (have)
- Suzanne wishes her parents _____ so far away. (not live)
- I wish I _____ learning English when I was a child! (start)
- This flat's so cold! I wish it _____ central heating. (have)
- I wish we _____ more expensive seats. I can't see a thing. (buy)
- The party sounds as if it was great fun. I wish I _____ there. (be)
- Is it only five o'clock? I wish it _____ dark so early in winter. (not get)
- I wish I _____ speak French. It would be useful in this job. (can)
- This suitcase is too heavy. I wish I _____ so many clothes! (not pack)
- I'm really tired. I wish we _____ by car instead of deciding to walk. (go)
- I wish I _____ an only child. I'd love to have brothers and sisters. (not be)
- I'd love to be able to play the piano. I wish I _____ when I was a child. (learn)

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