



## GRAMMAR

### **I WISH & IF ONLY (Ojalá...)**

#### **1. USE OF I WISH/ IF ONLY**

There are three different types of **I wish/ if only** sentences:

- 1) To express a wish in the present or in the future -> we use the past simple
- 2) To express past regrets -> we use the past perfect
- 3) To express complaints, impatience, annoyance or dissatisfaction with a present situation  
-> we use would + verb

##### **1.1. To express a wish in the present or in the future**

###### o **Form**

**I wish/ If only + past simple**

Examples:

- If only I **knew** how to use a computer. (I don't know how to use a computer and I would like to learn how to use it.)
- I wish I **were** a millionaire! (I would like to be a millionaire but I am not one of them.)

##### **1.2. To express past regrets**

###### o **Form**

**I wish/ If only + past perfect (had + past participle)**

Examples:

- If only I **had woken** up early. (I didn't wake up early and I missed my bus.)
- I wish I **hadn't argued** with my sister. (I argued with her and now I regret it.)

##### **1.3. To express complaints, impatience, annoyance or dissatisfaction with a present situation**

###### o **Form**

**I wish/ If only + would + verb**

Examples:

- If only you **would stop** speaking so loudly. (I'm upset because you should speak lower.)



- I wish you **wouldn't arrive** so late all the time (I'm annoyed because you always come late and I want you to arrive on time)

## WORKSHEET

### 1. Decide whether these statements express a wish or a regret.

- 1) I wish I could fly: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) If only she had seen the doctor earlier. He could have saved her: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) If only I travelled to New York: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) I wish I were a doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Fill in the gaps with the correct verb tense of the verbs in brackets.

- 1) Alice didn't get a good grade. She wishes she (work) \_\_\_\_\_ harder.
- 2) Tom likes football very much. He wishes he (become) \_\_\_\_\_ a professional football player.
- 3) He was running very fast when he had a heart attack. If only he (not/ run) \_\_\_\_\_ so fast.
- 4) She's keen on computers. She wishes she (study) \_\_\_\_\_ computer science next school year.
- 5) I am sorry I don't know how to use the computer. If only I (know) \_\_\_\_\_ how to use it.
- 6) I stayed late at work and missed the last bus. I wish I (not/ stay) \_\_\_\_\_ at work late.
- 7) I wish I (talk) \_\_\_\_\_ to him yesterday.
- 8) I need help badly. If only you (can) \_\_\_\_\_ help me.
- 9) My old car often breaks down. I wish I (buy) \_\_\_\_\_ a new car.
- 10) He didn't pass the exam. If only he (work) \_\_\_\_\_ hard.
- 11) She was absent. I wish she (attend) \_\_\_\_\_ the conference.
- 12) What a beautiful house! I wish I (have) \_\_\_\_\_ a house like this one.
- 13) I wish I (be) \_\_\_\_\_ rich. I would buy a farm and enjoy the calm of the countryside.
- 14) They had that bad accident because they were careless. If only they (be) \_\_\_\_\_ more careful.
- 15) We saw the film. I wish you (see) \_\_\_\_\_ it with us. It was an amazing evening.