We use **wish/if only + past simple/continuous** to talk about present situations which we want to be different.

We use **wish/if only + past perfect** to express regret, or to talk about things we wish had happened differently in the past.

We use **wish/if only + would/wouldn’t** to complain about a situation, thing or person which is annoying us.

**A.** Read the sentences in bold below and decide whether they are referring to the present or the past. Write either ‘present’ or ‘past’ in the space provided.

a. I wish I was taller. I’d love to be a supermodel. ..............................................

b. I wish I had eaten breakfast. I’m absolutely starving. ..............................................

c. If only it would stop raining. I want to go outside. ..............................................

d. The bus still hasn’t arrived. If only we had driven. ..............................................

e. I wish I was an only child. My sister is so annoying. ..............................................

**B.** Complete the sentences by circling the correct tense.

1. If only I didn’t eat / hadn’t eaten so much cake at the party. I feel quite ill now.

2. I wish I lived / had lived in the countryside. I’m fed up with city life.

3. I wish I didn’t shave / hadn’t shaved off all my hair. My head is cold.

4. If only our lessons were / had been shorter. They make me sleepy!

5. I wish he stopped / would stop coughing. It’s really irritating.

**C.** Complete the sentences on the right so that they have the same meaning as the ones on the left.

1. I would like to live alone. I wish .................................................................

2. I hate my name. I want a different one. If only .................................................................

3. I wasn’t careful enough. I regret it. I wish .................................................................

4. She bites her nails. It’s annoying. I wish .................................................................

5. Jen lied. Now she regrets it. If only .................................................................
D. Complete the sentences using one of the verbs in the box below in the correct tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bring</th>
<th>be</th>
<th>not / come</th>
<th>not / drink</th>
<th>have</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>slow down</td>
<td>not / be</td>
<td>stop</td>
<td>stay</td>
<td>understand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Peter wishes his wife ........................................ a better cook. She can’t even make an omelette.
2. He’s driving too fast. I wish he .................................................................
3. I wish I ........................................ by car. The roads are icy tonight, and parking was expensive.
4. Sally wishes she ........................................ a garden. She’d love to grow her own vegetables.
5. I wish I ........................................ so much coffee today. I’ll never get to sleep.
6. I wish he ................................................................. calling me. I don’t want to speak to him.
7. If only I ........................................ Japanese. If I did, I’d know what they were talking about.
8. We wish our parents ........................................ so strict. They don’t let us do anything.
9. If only the bar ........................................ open later. I don’t think I’ll make it before closing time.
10. I wish I ................................................................. an umbrella with me. It’s pouring!

E. Read the prompts below and complete the sentences next to them with your own endings. Write about:

1. A superpower you would like to have.  I wish .................................................................
2. A possession you would like to own.  I wish .................................................................
3. Something you regret doing as a child.  I wish .................................................................
4. Something you wish a family member wouldn’t do.  I wish .................................................................
5. A country you would like to live in.  I wish .................................................................
6. Something you wish you had done in the past.  I wish .................................................................
7. A regret about a purchase you made.  I wish .................................................................
8. A skill you would like to have.  I wish .................................................................
9. Something you wish was different about your home.  I wish .................................................................
10. Something about yourself you would like to change.  I wish .................................................................

Ask your partner questions to find out what their endings to the sentences were, (e.g., ‘What superpower would you like to have?’; ‘What do you wish a family member wouldn’t do?’) and find out if any of your endings were similar.