



## Unit 25 – Wish (*I wish I could.. I wish I hadn't..*)

A) Carrie, Lisa and Kelly are just finishing dinner at Lisa's house:

**Carrie:** Lisa! I wish you hadn't spent so much time making lunch!

**Lisa:** I'm glad you like it! It didn't take me long to prepare.

**Carrie:** I wish I could make delicious food like you!

**Kelly:** haha. I wish I had a personal chef like Lisa.

**Lisa:** haha. I wish it were sunny now so we could go for a walk!

**Kelly:** Right! Well I hope we can take a stroll after dinner!



- In this conversation, we see the word **wish** used in multiple tenses. Let's explore wish:

B) Wish + past simple – when we want a situation in the present (or future) to be different:

- I wish I had a bigger car. *(positive desire)*
- I wish I didn't have to work tomorrow. *(negative desire)*
- I wish it were the weekend. *(positive desire using 'were')*

C) Wish + past continuous – indicates a desire for something to be different in the present (or future):

- I wish I were watching tv at home. *(positive desire using were)*
- I wish I wasn't working. I don't feel well. *(negative desire using weren't)*

**Note:** -> *I wish I 'were'* is correct. However, *I wish I 'was'* is common in spoken conversation.

D) Wish + past participle (p.p.) – to express regret, or an outcome in the past to be different than it was:

- I wish I'd studied more in university. *(positive expression of regret)*
- I wish I hadn't eaten so much today. *(negative expression of regret)*

E) Wish + could + base verb – to express a realistic or unrealistic skill or situation:

- I wish I could jump higher. *(realistic desire of skill)*
- I wish I had wings and could fly away. *(unrealistic desire of ability)*

F) Wish + would + base verb – to express annoyance or dissatisfaction with a current situation:

- I wish you would stop staring at me. *(expression of annoyance)*
- I wish it would snow so we could ski. *(expression of dissatisfaction)*
- I wish Mr. Smith wouldn't give so much work! *(negative expression of dissatisfaction)*

G) Wish vs. Hope – hope indicates a desire for something to happen (*or not happen*) in the future:

- Ted hopes to pass his exam. not: ~~Ted wishes he passes his exam.~~
- I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow. not: ~~I wish it doesn't rain tomorrow.~~
- She hopes to see her mom tomorrow. not: ~~She wishes she sees her mom tomorrow.~~

H) Wish vs. Want – '*wish + base verb*' is a formal expression of want:

- I wish to talk to your manager about the issue. *(wish to talk = want to talk)*
- Sara wishes to start the exam now. *(wishes to start = wants to start)*
- **Note:** -> '*wish + base verb*' is only used in very formal situations, and is considered old-fashioned

I) Wish – used in fixed expressions:

- I wish you a fast recovery from your accident.
- We all wish you the best in the future!
- We wish you a Merry Christmas!



## Unit 25 – Exercises:

25.1 – Complete the sentences with the verb in either the **positive** or **negative** form. More than one answer is possible.

1. This restaurant isn't very good. I wish the food **didn't taste** (taste) so bad.
2. Eric loves to travel. He wishes that he **could fly / flew** (fly) more often!
3. No, I really wasn't late for class today. I wish that you \_\_\_\_\_ (believe) me!
4. We spend way too much eating out. I wish we \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) so much.
5. This project is too delayed. I wish that you \_\_\_\_\_ (agree) with me.
6. This park is beautiful. I wish we \_\_\_\_\_ (come) here more often!
7. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (like) video games but I'm sorry, I'm just not into them at all!
8. I wish the construction workers \_\_\_\_\_ (make) so much noise!
9. Shannon wishes she \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Manhattan!
10. I'm sick and it's Monday! I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) today!

25.2 – Complete the sentences with either **i) wish/wishes/wished** or **ii) hope/hopes/hoped**.

1. We **hope** that our son, Michael, becomes a successful doctor in the future.
2. Samantha works hard. She \_\_\_\_\_ she earned more money.
3. Todd isn't feeling well today. He \_\_\_\_\_ he could go home early and rest.
4. Kelly \_\_\_\_\_ we could go for a walk, but there just wasn't enough time.
5. Our manager \_\_\_\_\_ we can finish the work by 6pm, but that will be almost impossible.
6. You know, sometimes I \_\_\_\_\_ I were 19!

25.3 – What should you say in each situation? Write sentences with **wish..would** or **wish..wouldn't**.

1. It's late and your neighbor is playing loud music. You are tired and need to sleep.  
**I wish my neighbor would turn down the music** \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Sandy is usually late for your meetings with her. You're annoyed and say to Sandy:  
**I wish** \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You're waiting outside a subway station and need a taxi. None of the taxis are stopping to pick you up.  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Your roommate falls asleep with the tv on all the time. You don't like this. You say to your friend:  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. Your friend doesn't respond to your messages because his phone is usually off. You say to your friend:  
\_\_\_\_\_.

25.4 – Complete the following sentences using **wish + the past participle** (*I wish I hadn't called..*).

1. I wish I **hadn't forgotten** (not forget) my umbrella at work. Now I have to buy a new one!
2. I wish Brandon \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) late for dinner. I was so hungry while we waited!
3. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (know) her phone number. I would have called her.
4. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the phone ringing. That was an important call!
5. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) so much at the buffet. I don't feel well at all now.
6. I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) harder in high school. I would have gotten a better job.

25.5 – Write sentences using the **past continuous** about things that you want (*or don't want*) to be doing.

1. (relaxing..beach) 1. \_\_\_\_\_.
2. (working..at 11pm) 2. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. (watching..movie) 3. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. (meeting..best friend) 4. \_\_\_\_\_.