**I WISH …**

Grammar:

To say what you wish about the **past**, you use the **past perfect**:

I *wish* I *had passed* my ESL class last semester! (You didn't pass.)

I *wish* she *had given* me her phone number. (She didn't give it to you.)

To say what you wish about the **present**, you use the **past**:

I *wish* I *had* a good job. (You have a bad job now.)

I *wish* I *had* a million dollars. (You don't have a lot of money.)

I *wish* I *knew* how to speak Japanese. (You can't speak it.)

I *wish* I *could* type. (You can't type.)

I *wish* I *were* a good dancer. (You're a bad dancer.)

I *wish* she *were* nicer to me. (She's not nice to you.)

(Note! We use *were* for all subjects when we use *wish*.)

To say what you wish about the **future**, you use ***would***:

I *wish* Clinton *would do* more to help the poor.

I *wish* you *would quit* smoking soon.

Exercises

I wish I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a bigger house. I can’t have a party for a big crowd here.

I wish he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Those cigarettes have given him a terrible cough!

I wish you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the party with me last night. It was so much fun!

I wish the teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things more clearly. I’m always confused in this class.

I wish I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ some well-connected people who could help me with my problem.

I wish politicians \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more honest! It seems that they’re always lying.

I wish I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Pope when he came to New York two years ago.

I wish there \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ more books about computers in this bookstore.

I wish doctors \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cure cancer. It’s such a frightening disease!

I wish my grandfather \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ last year. There are so many things going on in my life that I wish I could talk to him about.

I wish Sam \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sex with that girl. He got her into trouble and now his life is a mess.

I wish I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Chinese. It’s impossible to go shopping here in Beijing.

What are three wishes you have for your life?

If you could choose only one of these to come true, which would it be and why?

What would be some positive and negative consequences (results) if each of these wishes came true?

What other wishes do you have for yourself?

What wishes do your parents have for you? Are they the same?

How have your wishes changed since you were young?

When you were young, how did you answer this questions: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Have you ever had a wish come true? Was it what you always wanted?

Why do we wish for things we don't have?

If you have a wish but your family doesn't agree with you, what should you do?

Do you have any strange wishes?

Why are wishes very important to people?

Do you really want all your wishes to come true?

What would be one thing you would wish for your spouse?

What in your life would you not change?

What are you thankful for? Who are you thankful for?

**Top 5 Regrets of the Dying -** https://deepenglish.com/2012/01/top-5-regrets-of-the-dying/

What can people at the end of life teach us about how to live? Bonnie Ware has taken care of people in the last stages of life for many years. She often asked them during their last weeks and days about their biggest regrets. If they could do things again, what would they change? [Here is what they said](http://www.inspirationandchai.com/Regrets-of-the-Dying.html):

**“I wish I didn’t work so hard.”**

**“I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.”**

**“I wish I’d had the courage to express my feelings.”**

**“I wish that I had let myself be happier.”**

**“I wish I’d had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.”**

**1.**

This was the number one regret that Bonnie heard. When the end is near people often remember all the dreams that they didn’t follow.

**2.**   
Many people told Bonnie that they became so focused on making money that they didn’t spend enough time with their partners and children. When they were on their deathbed, they realized that time with their family was more important than having more money.

**3.**   
A lot of people said that they would have been happier if they had been more honest about their feelings. These people had pushed their true feelings down and worried too much about what other people thought.

**4.**   
In their last days of life, many people thought back to all the wonderful friendships they had had and felt bad that they had lost contact with them.

**5.**   
Many dying people also told Bonnie that they wish they had been more open to change. Happiness is a choice. Over the years they had followed the same patterns and closed the door on new choices that could have made them happier.

**STEVE JOBS (founder of Apple) - last words before he died**

"I reached the pinnacle of success in the business world. In others' eyes, my life is an epitome of success. … However, aside from work, I have little joy. In the end, wealth is only a fact of life that I am accustomed to. At this moment, lying on the sick bed and recalling my whole life, I realize that all the recognition and wealth that I took so much pride in, have paled and become meaningless in the face of impending death. In the darkness, I look at the green lights from the life supporting machines and hear the humming mechanical sounds, I can feel the breath of God and of death drawing closer…

Now I know, when we have accumulated sufficient wealth to last our lifetime, we should pursue other matters that are unrelated to wealth…something that is more important: Perhaps relationships, perhaps art, perhaps a dream from younger days … Non-stop pursuing of wealth will only turn a person into a twisted being, just like me.

God gave us the senses to let us feel the love in everyone's heart, not the illusions brought about by wealth. The wealth I have won in my life I cannot bring with me. What I can bring is only the memories precipitated by love. That's the true riches which will follow you, accompany you, giving you strength and light to go on. Love can travel a thousand miles. Life has no limit. Go where you want to go. Reach the height you want to reach. It is all in your heart and in your hands.

What is the most expensive bed in the world? - "Sick bed" … You can employ someone to drive the car for you, make money for you but you cannot have someone to bear the sickness for you. Material things lost can be found. But there is one thing that can never be found when it is lost - "Life". When a person goes into the operating room, he will realize that there is one book that he has yet to finish reading - "Book of Healthy Life". Whichever stage in life we are at right now, with time, we will face the day when the curtain comes down.

Treasure Love for your family, love for your spouse, love for your friends… Treat yourself well. Cherish others."