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...Wish / If Only ...

Remember this:

① Wishes about the Present → Simple Past
Wishes about the Past → Past Perfect
will +verb → would+ V(base form)
can + verb → could+ V(base form)

② Negative ⇄ Affirmative

instead of "was", we use "were"

✓ Wishes about the past:

We use "wish" to express regrets in the past for example, "last year, you were offered a job to work in a restaurant, but you turned down the offer." Later, you found out that the salary was high and the working conditions were excellent.

Here are some ways to express regrets in the past:

☛ I wish I had accepted the job offer.

☛ If only I hadn't turned down the job offer.

Form: wish about the past ⇢ Past Perfect

affirmative ⇄ negative

✓ Wishes about the present:

We can express wishes about present using this form.

Form: wishes about the present ⇢ Simple Past

affirmative ⇄ negative

Here are some ways to express regrets in the present:

1. What a pity! I don't know how to use this iPad.

☛ I wish I knew how to use this iPad.

2. My sister doesn't live in Barcelona.

☛ If only my sister lived in Barcelona.

✓ Wishes about the future:

We can express wishes about future using this form.

Form: wishes about the future (will) ⇢ would + verb

can ⇢ could + verb

affirmative ⇄ negative

Here are some ways to express wishes about future:

1. Messy won't play the next match against Real Madrid.

☛ I wish Messy would play the next month against Real Madrid.

2. The Smiths will not come this holiday to Morocco.

☛ If only the Smiths would come this holiday to Morocco.

EXERCISE 1 Re-write these sentences as sugeted.

1. Sam doesn't live near school.
   Sam wishes _____
2. My two brothers don't speak Spanish.
   My two brothers wish _____
3. It doesn't rain much here.
   If only _____
4. He doesn't have enough money.
   He wishes _____
5. They take the train every day.
   If only _____

EXERCISE 2 Re-write these sentences as sugeted.

1. Robert didn't have the ticket.
   Robert wishes _____
2. I stole his cell phone yesterday.
   I wish _____
3. Paul didn't apply for the job on time.
   Paul wishes _____
4. She had an accident because she drove fast.
   If only _____
5. I was not a member of that association
   I wish _____

EXERCISE 3 Re-write these sentences as sugeted.

1. My best friend won't come to the party.
   I wish _____
2. Sorry, I can't see you more often.
   I wish _____
3. They won't arrive on Friday.
   If only _____
4. Adam can't lend you the car.
   I wish _____
5. She won't call Jack tonight.
   If only _____

EXERCISE 4 Re-write these sentences as sugeted.

1. Leila didn't take the taxi to work yesterday.
   Leila wishes _____
2. He didn't have enough time to finish the whole exam last time.
   He wishes _____
3. I am terribly sorry, I can't help you.
   I wish _____
4. I was not with my wife during my vacation in Europe last summer.
   If only _____
5. What a pity! Susan failed her driving test.
   Susan wishes _____
6. He doesn't have a good salary.
   He wishes _____

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QUIZ 6

Quiz on Wish / If Only ...

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EXERCISE 1 Re-write these sentences as suggested. (10Pts)

1. I can't join the club because I don't have a membership card.
   I wish I _____
2. He was not able to attend the meeting last week.
   If only _____
3. My brother doesn't live with us in this beautiful town.
   I wish my brother _____
4. What a pity! It didn't rain last year.
   Mr. Lawrence wishes _____
5. Mark didn't wake up early. So, he missed the train.
   Mark wishes _____
6. What a pity! I don't know how to solve this puzzle.
   If only _____
7. I am sure. He will arrive late to the interview.
   I wish _____
8. What a pity! Sophie didn't go to the doctor earlier.
   Sophie wishes _____
9. My daughter saw a horrible film and therefore she had nightmares at night.
   I wish my daughter _____
10. I am sorry. I can't answer you now.
    If only _____

EXERCISE 2 Re-write these sentences as suggested. (5Pts)

1. My uncle didn't stay longer in Spain, and now he regrets it.
   My uncle wishes _____
2. I can't speak foreign languages.
   I wish _____
3. It's a pity! He sold his old computer yesterday.
   If only _____
4. I can't help you because I don't have time.
   I wish _____
5. He had an accident because he didn't respect the red light.
   If only _____

EXERCISE 3 Complete these sentences with the right form. (5Pts)

1. I insulted my friend while having an argument with him. I wish I _____ my friend while having an argument with him.	a- had insulted b- hadn't insulted
2. I can't chat with you because I don't have the internet connection. If only I _____ the internet connection to chat with you.	a- had b- had had
3. I missed my friend's birthday party; so, he is now mad at me. If only I _____ my friend's birthday party.	a- didn't miss b- had not missed
4. Jack arrived late at the airport. Therefore, he missed his flight. Jack wishes he _____ late at the airport.	a- had not arrived b- had arrived
5. He couldn't help you because he didn't have money. If only he _____ money to help you.	a- had b- had had

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