

## Lesson Plan: Wish / if only (present regrets)

<b>Level</b>	Intermediate (B1–B2)
<b>Time</b>	60–75 minutes
<b>Skills</b>	Grammar, speaking, writing
<b>Focus</b>	Wish and if only for unreal present situations and past regrets

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use wish + past simple for present wishes (things currently not true)
- Use wish + would for wishes about other people's behaviour
- Use wish + past perfect and if only for past regrets
- Distinguish between these structures and real conditionals

### TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

#### *Wish + past simple — present unreal wishes*

- I wish I spoke better English.
- She wishes she lived closer to work.
- If only I had more time!

#### *Wish + would — annoyance / desire for change*

- I wish you would listen more carefully.
- She wishes the neighbours would turn the music down.
- If only it would stop raining!

#### *Wish + past perfect — past regrets*

- I wish I hadn't said that.
- He wishes he had applied for the job.
- If only I had saved more money.

#### *Common errors*

- I wish I would have more money. → I wish I had more money.
- I wish I was taller. → I wish I were taller. (formal, but both used)

### LESSON PROCEDURE

#### 1. Warm-up (10 min)

**Task:** Share one thing you wish were different in your life.

- Teacher models with own example. Students share — don't correct yet, observe the forms used.

#### 2. Presentation (15 min)

**Task:** Three columns: wish + past simple / wish + would / wish + past perfect.

- Contrast: I wish I were taller (can't change) vs. I wish you would stop (could change, it's a choice).

- Past regrets: the action is done — focus on what could have been different.

### 3. Guided practice (10 min)

**Task:** Complete wish sentences with the correct form.

- 'The traffic is terrible.' → 'I wish there \_\_\_\_ (be) less traffic.' → were
- 'She didn't study enough.' → 'She wishes she \_\_\_\_ (study) harder.' → had studied

### 4. Writing and discussion (20 min)

**Task:** Students write 3 present wishes and 3 past regrets.

- Share in small groups. Discussion: are any of these still changeable?
- Extend: use if only for emphasis on deep regrets.

### 5. Role play (5–10 min)

**Task:** Dear diary: students write a diary entry from a fictional character's perspective.

- Include at least 2 wishes and 1 regret.

## EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a short letter to your younger self using wish and if only.
2. Write 6 wishes about the world (society, environment, technology) using different wish structures.
3. Write a character's thoughts using wish/if only after a difficult situation.