

More About Regretful Wishing

Wishing about the past

example:

I never learned to play the piano.

I wish I had learned to play the piano.

1. I wasn't born a princess.

I wish I had been born _____ a princess.

2. I didn't understand the meaning of love until now.

I wish I had understood _____ the meaning of love before now.

3. I blew up at my best friend during an argument.

I wish I hadn't blown _____ up at my friend.

4. I spent four years learning a useless skill.

I wish I hadn't spent _____ four years learning something useless.

5. I ran until I was out of breath.

I wish I hadn't run _____ so fast.

Wishing about the present

example:

I'm not able to go on any long trips this year.

I wish could go on a long trip this year.

1. I don't have a car.

I wish I had _____ a car.

2. My camera doesn't work.

I wish my camera worked _____.

3. I need to do the laundry today.

I wish I didn't need to do _____ the laundry today.

4. I have to get out of bed.

I wish I didn't have to get out of bed _____.

5. I can't go to the moon with you today.

I wish I could go to the moon _____ with you.

Wishing about the future

example:

I will not live forever

I wish were going to live forever.

1. I probably won't marry a handsome prince.

I wish I was going to _____ a handsome prince.

2. I will not be going to the Beijing Olympics as an athlete.

I wish I was going _____ to compete at the _____ Beijing Olympics.

3. Today will end.

_____ I wish today would _____ never end.

No Regrets!

Transform a regret into something more positive, and add a reason.

example:

I'm not very tall. → I wish I were taller. →

I'm glad I'm not tall. I like myself the way I am.

1. I wish I had a car.

I'm glad I don't have a car. It's too hard to park.

2. I wish I hadn't drunk three bottles of beer last night..

I'm glad I drank three bottles of beer last night. I had fun.

3. I wish my friends agreed with me all the time.

I'm glad my friends don't agree with me all the time. It's more interesting that way.

4. I wish I had a million dollars.

I'm glad I don't have a million dollars. I have more motivation to work.

5. I wish I'd met you before now.

I'm glad I hadn't met you before now. I wouldn't have been ready for you yet.

A story about a boy who had wishes and hopes:

One day Damon had to go to work early to see his special friend on the computer. He was going to teach her some English and she was going to teach him some of her language. Their appointment was for 9:00 that morning. To get to his office by 8:30 and make sure he was ready, he would have to leave home by 7:30. But by 7:30 he still wasn't quite ready. He wished he had gotten up earlier, and he hoped he would get there in time. When he looked out the window, he saw that there was a lot of new snow on the ground that had fallen during the night. Damon loved snow but he wished so much hadn't fallen right then. He hoped there would be no problem getting to work.

But there was. The subway was out of service on part of his route. Now he really wished he had left the house earlier. But it was too late for regrets. He just hoped that the bus would get him there in time. But the bus was slow. So slow! He wished the bus could go faster. So he told his friend that he would be late and hoped she wouldn't be angry. And she wasn't! She even changed their appointment time for an hour later so that he would have enough time to get there. He wished he could give her a big kiss. And he hoped they would be friends a very long time.

What would you say is the right time to use Hope and the right time to use Wish?

Hopes vs Wishes

Fill in the blank with WISH or HOPE.

1. I hope I can see the fireworks from my house.
2. I hope the store is open today.
3. I hope my bicycle doesn't get stolen if I leave it unlocked.
4. I wish there weren't so many bike thieves in this city.
5. I hope my luck will change.
6. I wish could be with you right now.