Wish Worksheet: I Wish + Past Simple and Would

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
wish + past simple: present situation we want to change	I wish I lived near the sea.
wish + were (formal) / was (informal)	I wish I were taller.
wish + could: ability	I wish I could speak Japanese.
wish + would: other people's annoying habits	I wish he would stop talking.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
I wish I have a car.	I wish I had a car.
I wish I can sing.	I wish I could sing.
I wish I would be rich.	I wish I were / was rich.

1. Complete

Complete the wishes with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. I live in a small flat. I wish I _____ (live) in a house.
2. I can't drive. I wish I _____ (drive).
3. My job is boring. I wish it _____ (be) more interesting.
4. It's raining again. I wish it _____ (stop).
5. I don't have time to read. I wish I _____ (have) more time.
6. He always interrupts me. I wish he _____ (not / interrupt).
7. I don't know the answer. I wish I _____ (know).
8. My sister lives far away. I wish she _____ (live) closer.

2. Choose

Circle the correct option.

1. I wish I (am / were) on holiday.
2. I wish I (could / can) play the guitar.
3. I wish my neighbours (would / will) be quieter.
4. I wish it (wasn't / isn't) so cold.
5. She wishes she (had / has) a bigger kitchen.
6. I wish you (would stop / stopped) leaving your socks on the floor!
7. Do you wish you (lived / would live) in another country?
8. I wish I (knew / would know) how to fix this.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. I wish I have more friends here.
2. I wish I can come to your party.
3. I wish I would know the answer.
4. She wishes she is younger.
5. I wish my brother will help me more.
6. I wish I don't have to work tomorrow.

Writing

Write 6 wishes about your life now: your home, your job or studies, your abilities, your city and someone's annoying habit.

Speaking

- If you could change one thing about your daily routine, what would it be? Start with 'I wish...'
- What skill do you wish you had?
- Is there anything you wish people in your city would do differently?
- Do you ever wish you lived in a different time in history?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 lived · 2 could drive · 3 was / were · 4 would stop · 5 had · 6 wouldn't interrupt · 7 knew · 8 lived

2. Choose: 1 were · 2 could · 3 would · 4 wasn't · 5 had · 6 would stop · 7 lived · 8 knew

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 I wish I had more friends here. · 2 I wish I could come to your party. · 3 I wish I knew the answer. · 4 She wishes she were / was younger. · 5 I wish my brother would help me more. · 6 I wish I didn't have to work tomorrow.

Writing, model answer: I wish my flat had a balcony. I wish I didn't have to commute for an hour every day. I wish I could cook like my grandmother. I wish my city was greener and had more parks. I wish I had more time to see my friends. And I wish my flatmate would wash his dishes!