



Wish and If Only — B2 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. I wish I ____ more time to prepare for the viva next week.
A) have B) had C) would have D) had had
2. I wish I ____ that in front of the whole department.
A) hadn't said B) didn't say C) wouldn't say D) haven't said
3. I wish he ____ interrupting every time somebody else starts a sentence.
A) stopped B) would stop C) had stopped D) stops
4. Which sentence is INCORRECT?
A) I wish I could help. B) I wish I had helped.
C) I wish I were able to help. D) I wish I would help.
5. If only I ____ the small print before I signed the lease.
A) read B) would read C) have read D) had read
6. I'd rather you ____ that to anyone else, if you don't mind.
A) don't mention B) didn't mention C) wouldn't mention D) hadn't mentioned
7. She wishes she ____ taller, though nobody else has ever noticed her height.
A) were B) is C) would be D) had been
8. I wish this flat ____ more light — the back rooms are dark even in June.
A) has B) would have C) had D) had had
9. The difference between 'I wish he stopped' and 'I wish he would stop' is that ____.
A) the second complains about a habit he could change
B) the first is more polite
C) the second refers to the past
D) there is no difference
10. We regret ____ you that the position has now been filled.
A) informing B) having informed C) to inform D) inform

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. I wish I _____ a car — the bus takes an hour and a quarter each way.

2. I wish I _____ not agreed to chair the committee.
3. I wish the neighbours _____ turn their music down after midnight.
4. If _____ I had listened to my supervisor at the time.
5. She wishes she _____ able to attend, but the dates clash with the trial.
6. I'd rather you _____ mention the redundancies until Monday.
7. I wish I _____ remember where I put the spare key.
8. We _____ to inform you that your application has been unsuccessful.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. more / read. / to / time / I / had / I / wish

Express dissatisfaction with your present situation.

2. anything / wish / I / I / at / said / all. / hadn't

Regret something you actually did.

3. would / phone. / wish / stop / his / he / I / checking

Complain about somebody else's habit.

4. had / traffic. / If / I / known / about / the / only

Intensify a regret about the past.

5. wish / public / better / at / I / speaking. / I / were

Wish a present quality about yourself were different.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **B) had** — A wish about the present situation takes the past simple, which marks it as unreal.
2. **A) hadn't said** — Regret about a completed past action takes wish plus the past perfect.
3. **B) would stop** — Wish plus would complains about somebody else's repeated behaviour.
4. **D) I wish I would help.** — Wish plus would cannot take the same subject, because you cannot complain about your own behaviour.
5. **D) had read** — If only follows exactly the same patterns as wish, so past regret takes the past perfect.
6. **B) didn't mention** — Would rather plus a different subject takes the unreal past for a present request.
7. **A) were** — Wish about a present state of being takes were for all subjects in careful English.
8. **C) had** — Dissatisfaction with a present situation takes the past simple after wish.
9. **A) the second complains about a habit he could change** — Would makes the wish a complaint about willingness rather than about the situation.
10. **C) to inform** — Regret plus a to-infinitive delivers bad news formally at the moment of speaking.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **had** — A wish about a present situation takes the past simple to mark it as unreal.
2. **had** — Regret about a past decision takes had plus the past participle.
3. **would** — A complaint about somebody else's repeated behaviour takes this modal.
4. **only** — If only intensifies a wish and follows exactly the same tense patterns.
5. **were** — A wish about a present state of being uses this form for every subject.
6. **didn't** — Would rather plus a second subject takes the unreal past for a present objection.
7. **could** — A wish about present ability uses this modal rather than a past simple.
8. **regret** — This verb plus a to-infinitive is the formal way of delivering bad news.

C. Sentence building

1. **I wish I had more time to read.**
2. **I wish I hadn't said anything at all.**
3. **I wish he would stop checking his phone.**
4. **If only I had known about the traffic.**
5. **I wish I were better at public speaking.**