

Grammar Challenge

'Wish' + past perfect

Practice



GRAMMAR CHALLENGE



BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



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BBC Learning English – Grammar Challenge

Grammar Point – 'wish' + past perfect for past regrets

Exercise 1: Form

Match the beginnings of the sentences to the correct endings.

1.	I hate the food at that restaurant...
2.	It's raining...
3.	It was freezing in the park...
4.	I've got a horrible stomach ache...
5.	My brother isn't speaking to me...
6.	I'm really lonely...
7.	I'm hungry...
8.	I hated every minute of that holiday...

a.	I wish I'd brought my umbrella.
b.	I wish I hadn't shouted at him.
c.	I wish I'd eaten a proper breakfast.
d.	I wish we'd gone to Paris.
e.	I wish I'd worn a coat.
f.	I wish I hadn't eaten so much popcorn.
g.	I wish we'd eaten somewhere else.
h.	I wish I hadn't broken up with my boyfriend.

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Exercise 2: Positive / Negative

Read the sentence and choose the option which best expresses a past regret.

1. I shouted at my little sister this morning. I feel bad about it now.
 - a. I wish I had shouted at my little sister
 - b. I wish I hadn't shouted at my little sister

2. I didn't go to the library yesterday. It's closed today.
 - a. I wish I had gone to the library
 - b. I wish I hadn't gone to the library

3. I took no notice of the teacher, and I did really badly in the test.
 - a. I wish I had taken more notice
 - b. I wish I hadn't taken more notice

4. They stayed up really late, and they are very tired, so the boss is most displeased.
 - a. The boss wishes they had stayed up
 - b. The boss wishes they hadn't stayed up

5. Jack didn't tell his wife he was going to be late, and she got really angry with him.
 - a. Jack wishes he had told his wife
 - b. Jack wishes he hadn't told his wife

6. Mary told her brother she was going to be late, so he didn't wait for her.
 - a. Mary wishes she had told her brother
 - b. Mary wishes she hadn't told her brother

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Exercise 3: Questions

Choose the **5 words** which complete each question:

1. Mary didn't prepare for the interview, and she's sad because she didn't get the job.
... prepared for the interview?

wish	wishes	does	had	did	Mary	she
------	--------	------	-----	-----	------	-----

2. I wanted to wash my car, but I didn't have time.
... time to wash your car?

does	you'd	had	you	do	wish	have
------	-------	-----	-----	----	------	------

3. Michal wanted to buy a diamond ring for his girlfriend, but he couldn't afford it.
Does Michal's girlfriend ... a diamond ring?

wish	wishes	had	hadn't	bought	he	her
------	--------	-----	--------	--------	----	-----

4. Maria ate too many sweets when she was a child, and now she has lost her teeth
Does Maria ... sweets when she was a child?

eaten	had	hadn't	wish	ate	fewer	she
-------	-----	--------	------	-----	-------	-----

5. Frank and Bill ran all the way to school, but they were still late.
Do ... all the way to school?

hadn't	run	ran	they	they	hadn't	wish
--------	-----	-----	------	------	--------	------

6. Benny asked her to have dinner with him, but she laughed and said no.
... asked her to have dinner with him?

hadn't	he	he	do	does	wish	had
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Grammar Point – 'wish' + past perfect for past regrets - Answers

Exercise 1: Form

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4.	I've got a horrible stomach ache...
5.	My brother isn't speaking to me...
6.	I'm really lonely...
7.	I'm hungry...
8.	I hated every minute of that holiday...

g.	I wish we'd eaten somewhere else.
a.	I wish I'd brought my umbrella.
e.	I wish I'd worn a coat.
f.	I wish I hadn't eaten so much popcorn.
b.	I wish I hadn't shouted at him.
h.	I wish I hadn't broken up with my boyfriend.
c.	I wish I'd eaten a proper breakfast.
d.	I wish we'd gone to Paris.

Exercise 2: Positive / Negative

Read the sentence and choose the option which best expresses a past regret.

1. I shouted at my little sister this morning. I feel bad about it now.

a. I wish I had shouted at my little sister - WRONG

b. I wish I hadn't shouted at my little sister - CORRECT

2. I didn't go to the library yesterday. It's closed today.

a. I wish I had gone to the library - CORRECT

b. I wish I hadn't gone to the library - WRONG

3. I took no notice of the teacher, and I did really badly in the test.

a. I wish I had taken more notice - CORRECT

b. I wish I hadn't taken more notice - WRONG

4. They stayed up really late, and they are very tired, so the boss is most displeased.

a. The boss wishes they had stayed up - WRONG

b. The boss wishes they hadn't stayed up - CORRECT

5. Jack didn't tell his wife he was going to be late, and she got really angry with him.

a. Jack wishes he had told his wife - CORRECT

b. Jack wishes he hadn't told his wife - WRONG

6. Mary told her brother she was going to be late, so he didn't wait for her.

a. Mary wishes she had told her brother - WRONG

b. Mary wishes she hadn't told her brother - CORRECT

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Exercise 3: Questions

Choose the **5 words** which complete each question:

1. Mary didn't prepare for the interview, and she's sad because she didn't get the job.
Does Mary wish she had prepared for the interview?
2. I wanted to wash my car, but I didn't have time.
Do you wish you'd had time to wash your car?
3. Michal wanted to buy a diamond ring for his girlfriend, but he couldn't afford it.
Does Michal's girlfriend **wish he had bought her** a diamond ring?
4. Maria ate too many sweets when she was a child, and now she has lost her teeth.
Does Maria **wish she had eaten fewer** sweets when she was a child?
5. Frank and Bill ran all the way to school, but they were still late.
Do **they wish they hadn't run** all the way to school?
6. Benny asked her to have dinner with him, but she laughed and said no.
Does he wish he hadn't asked her to have dinner with him?