



## Wish & If Only: Wish + Would, Mixed Wishes & Wish vs Hope

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- My neighbour plays loud music every night. I wish he \_\_\_\_ playing music so late.  
a) stops  
b) stopped  
c) would stop  
d) had stopped
- I \_\_\_\_ it doesn't rain tomorrow. We have a picnic planned.  
a) wish  
b) if only  
c) would wish  
d) hope
- If only it \_\_\_\_ so cold today. I want to go for a walk.  
a) weren't  
b) wouldn't be  
c) hadn't been  
d) isn't
- I wish you \_\_\_\_ leaving your dirty clothes on the floor!  
a) stopped  
b) had stopped  
c) will stop  
d) would stop
- She didn't apply for the scholarship. She wishes she \_\_\_\_.  
a) applied  
b) would apply  
c) has applied  
d) had applied
- It's time we \_\_\_\_ home. It's getting very late.  
a) go  
b) went  
c) would go  
d) had gone
- I wish the bus \_\_\_\_ on time for once. It's always late.  
a) comes  
b) came  
c) had come  
d) would come
- I \_\_\_\_ you have a wonderful holiday! You deserve a break.  
a) hope  
b) wish  
c) if only  
d) wished
- I wish I \_\_\_\_ speak Japanese. I'm going to Tokyo next month.  
a) would  
b) had been able to  
c) could  
d) can
- If only I \_\_\_\_ that terrible mistake at work yesterday.  
a) didn't make  
b) wouldn't make  
c) hadn't made  
d) haven't made
- I wish my brother \_\_\_\_ borrowing my things without asking.  
a) would stop  
b) stopped  
c) had stopped  
d) stops

12. It's high time the government \_\_\_\_ something about pollution.  
a) does  
b) did  
c) would do  
d) had done
13. I don't have enough experience for this job. I wish I \_\_\_\_ more experience.  
a) had  
b) had had  
c) would have  
d) have
14. She \_\_\_\_ she can get tickets for the concert. They sell out quickly.  
a) hopes  
b) wishes  
c) if only  
d) wished
15. If only my flatmate \_\_\_\_ the dishes more often. The sink is always full.  
a) washed  
b) had washed  
c) would wash  
d) washes
16. We didn't save enough money for the trip. We wish we \_\_\_\_ more.  
a) saved  
b) would save  
c) have saved  
d) had saved
17. I wish our teacher \_\_\_\_ us so much homework. We never have time to relax.  
a) doesn't give  
b) wouldn't give  
c) hadn't given  
d) didn't give
18. It's about time you \_\_\_\_ driving. You're 25 already!  
a) learn  
b) learnt  
c) would learn  
d) had learnt
19. I wish I \_\_\_\_ the piano when I was young. Now it's too late.  
a) learnt  
b) had learnt  
c) would learn  
d) could learn
20. I \_\_\_\_ you'll feel better soon. Take care of yourself.  
a) wish  
b) if only  
c) hope  
d) wished



## Answers

1. c) would stop
2. d) hope
3. a) weren't
4. d) would stop
5. d) had applied
6. b) went
7. d) would come
8. a) hope
9. c) could
10. c) hadn't made
11. a) would stop
12. b) did
13. a) had
14. a) hopes
15. c) would wash
16. d) had saved
17. b) wouldn't give
18. b) learnt
19. b) had learnt
20. c) hope



# Explanations

## 1. “would stop” (c)

'Wish + would' is used to complain about someone else's annoying behaviour that you want to change. 'I wish he would stop' means his music annoys me and I want him to change. Note: 'stopped' (past simple) would mean wishing the situation were generally different, while 'would stop' specifically targets his repeated behaviour.

## 2. “hope” (d)

'Hope' is used for things that are possible in the future. It might not rain — the outcome is uncertain. 'Wish' is used for things that are unreal or unlikely. Since not raining tomorrow is perfectly possible, use 'hope'.

## 3. “weren't” (a)

This is a present wish — it IS cold today and the speaker wants it to be different. Use 'if only + past simple': 'weren't'. 'Hadn't been' (past perfect) would mean regretting past cold weather, which doesn't match 'today'.

## 4. “would stop” (d)

'Wish + would' for complaining about someone's annoying habit. The speaker is frustrated that the other person keeps leaving clothes on the floor. Important: the subject of 'wish' (I) must be different from the subject of 'would' (you).

## 5. “had applied” (d)

Past regret — she didn't apply and now regrets it. Use 'wish + past perfect': 'She wishes she had applied'. Past simple ('applied') would mean a present wish, but the regret is about a past missed opportunity.

## 6. “went” (b)

'It's time + past simple' is a related structure meaning 'we should go now — we've delayed too long'. Use past simple ('went') after 'it's time', just like after 'wish'. This does NOT refer to the past — it's about the present.

## 7. “would come” (d)

'Wish + would' to express frustration about a situation you want to change. The bus is always late and the speaker is annoyed. 'Would come' targets the repeated lateness. 'Came' (past simple) would be a general present wish about the bus schedule.

## 8. “hope” (a)

'Hope' for possible future situations. Having a wonderful holiday is realistic and possible. 'I hope you have a wonderful holiday' is a positive, forward-looking statement. 'Wish' would imply it's unlikely or impossible.

## 9. “could” (c)

'Wish + could' for a present wish about ability. The speaker can't speak Japanese now. 'Could' (not 'would') is correct because this is about ability, not about someone's behaviour. 'Had been able to' would be a past regret.

## 10. “hadn't made” (c)

Past regret — the mistake happened yesterday. Use 'if only + past perfect': 'hadn't made'. The time marker 'yesterday' confirms this is about the past. 'Didn't make' (past simple) would be for a present wish, not a past regret.

## 11. “would stop” (a)

'Wish + would' for annoying behaviour you want someone to change. The brother keeps borrowing things — the speaker is frustrated and wants this habit to stop. The subject of 'wish' (I) is different from the subject of 'would' (my brother).

## 12. “did” (b)

'It's (high) time + past simple' means something should be done now — it's overdue. 'It's high time the government did something' = the government should act now. 'High' adds emphasis, meaning the action is long overdue.

## 13. “had” (a)

Present wish — the speaker lacks experience NOW. Use 'wish + past simple': 'I wish I had'. 'Had had' (past perfect) would mean regretting not having experience at a specific past moment. The present situation calls for past simple.

## 14. “hopes” (a)

'Hope + present simple' for possible future situations. Getting tickets is difficult but possible. 'She hopes she can get tickets' expresses a realistic possibility. 'Wish' would imply it's impossible or unreal.

## 15. “would wash” (c)

'If only + would' to complain about someone's behaviour. The flatmate doesn't wash dishes regularly and it's frustrating. 'Would wash' targets the repeated annoying behaviour. 'Washed' (past simple) would be a general wish, while 'would wash' implies irritation.

## 16. “had saved” (d)

Past regret — they didn't save enough money before the trip. Use 'wish + past perfect': 'We wish we had saved more'. The saving should have happened in the past, before the trip was planned.

## 17. “wouldn't give” (b)

'Wish + wouldn't' for complaining about someone's repeated annoying behaviour. 'I wish our teacher wouldn't give us so much homework' expresses frustration and a desire for the teacher to change. Note: 'didn't give' (past simple) is also grammatically possible — it would mean a general wish that the situation were different. But 'wouldn't give' is the better answer here because the context ('We never have time to relax') emphasises frustration with the teacher's ongoing behaviour.

## 18. “learnt” (b)

'It's about time + past simple' means you should have done this already — it's overdue. 'It's about time you learnt to drive' = you should have learnt by now. Like 'it's time', this uses past simple but refers to the present.

## 19. “had learnt” (b)

Past regret — 'when I was young' tells us this is about the past. Use 'wish + past perfect': 'I wish I had learnt'. The speaker didn't learn as a child and now regrets it. 'Learnt' (past simple) would mean a present wish, not matching 'when I was young'.

## 20. “hope” (c)

'Hope' for realistic future possibilities. Feeling better soon is a real possibility, so use 'hope'. 'I hope you'll feel better soon' is a common caring expression. 'Wish' would imply that feeling better is impossible or unlikely.