**EXPRESSING A WISH OR A REGRET**

**Use of I wish / if only:**

There are three distinct types of **I wish / if only** sentences:

1. Wish, wanting change for the present or future with the simple past.
2. Regret with the past perfect.
3. Complaints with would + verb.

**Expressing a wish:**

Form: **If only/ I wish + Past Simple**

Example:

If only I **knew** how to use a computer. (I don’t know how to use a computer and I would like to learn how to use it)

**Use:**

* To express a wish in the present or in the future. The simple past here is an unreal past.
* When you use the verb to be the form is “were”.   
  Example:  
  I wish I **were** a millionaire!

**Expressing regret:**

**Form: If only/ I wish +Past Perfect**

Example:

If only I **had woken** up early. (I didn't wake up early and I missed my bus.)

**Use:**

* To express a regret. The action is past.

**Complaining:**

Form: **I wish/ if only+ would +verb**

Example:

I wish you wouldn't arrive so late all the time (I'm annoyed because you always come late and I want you to arrive on time)

**Use:**

* To complain about a behavior that you disapprove.
* Expressing impatience, annoyance or dissatisfaction with a present action.