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I Wish and If Only: Present Regrets and Complaints

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Clause | Conditional sentence | Modal verb | Negation | Past tense | Subjunctive mood | Verb | Verb mood | Verb tense | Simple tense

1. Help the soaked camper finish their grumpy diary entry by choosing the correct verb form for each blank.

We are absolutely freezing! I wish it _____ raining so we could finally light a campfire. If only I _____ how to build a proper waterproof shelter, but I am just a city boy lost in the woods.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** would stop
- **B)** stops
- **C)** will stop

Blank 2

- **A)** knew
- **B)** know
- **C)** am knowing

2. Read the bored student's mind during a very long, very dry history lecture. Select ALL the thoughts that correctly express his desire to be somewhere else right now.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I wish I had my gaming console with me.
- **B)** I wish this class finishes soon.
- **C)** If only I know the answers to his questions.
- **D)** If only this professor spoke a bit faster.

3. Read the mind of Buster the dog and complete his inner monologue.

I wish I _____ that fluffy squirrel taunting me from the oak tree! If only this invisible forcefield of a glass door _____ open, I would definitely show him who the good boy really is.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** could catch
- **B)** can catch
- **C)** catch

Blank 2

- **A)** were
- **B)** is
- **C)** be

4. Complete the frustrated college student's text message about their annoying roommate.

I wish my roommate _____ his dishes occasionally instead of building a tower of plates. If only he _____ playing terrible EDM music at 2 AM!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** would wash
- **B)** will wash
- **C)** is washing

Blank 2

- **A)** would stop
- **B)** stops
- **C)** will stop

5. Complete the frustrated roommate's text message to their best friend.

I cannot stand this mess anymore! I wish Dave _____ his dirty dishes for once in his life. If only I _____ to live by myself this semester instead of sharing an apartment!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** would wash
- **B)** will wash
- **C)** is washing

Blank 2

- **A)** had chosen
- **B)** have chosen
- **C)** choose

6. Read the exhausted college student's thought and choose the best option to complete it.

I have a mountain of laundry to do. I wish I ___ a magical robot to fold my clothes!

Select one.

- **A)** have
- **B)** had
- **C)** will have
- **D)** am having

7. Complete the lost traveler's frantic text messages to a friend. He is wandering around a foreign city with no map and no money. Select ALL the sentences that correctly express his current regrets.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I wish I can find a friendly taxi driver.
- **B)** If only I spoke Italian!
- **C)** If only I have some cash in my wallet.
- **D)** I wish my phone battery wasn't dead.

8. Choose the correct phrase to complete the pet owner's funny realization.

My dog keeps staring at the blank wall and barking. If only I ___ speak dog to ask him what he sees!

Select one.

- **A)** can
- **B)** will
- **C)** should
- **D)** could

9. Complete the inner monologue of a highly ambitious dog staring up at a squirrel.

I wish I _____ trees like that fluffy creature. If only my legs _____ a little longer, I'd catch him for sure!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** could climb
- **B)** can climb
- **C)** will climb

Blank 2

- **A)** were
- **B)** are
- **C)** would be

10. Help the frustrated college student vent about her terrible, messy roommate. Select ALL the grammatically correct complaints.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I wish he would wash his dishes for once!
- **B)** I wish he will stop eating my expensive snacks.
- **C)** If only he wouldn't play the drums at 2 AM.
- **D)** If only he stops leaving his dirty socks on the sofa.

11. Help the daydreaming student complete their thought during a terrible lecture.

This math lecture is endless, and it's freezing in here. If only I ___ on a tropical beach with a coconut in my hand!

Select one.

- **A)** am
- **B)** will be
- **C)** were
- **D)** be

12. Eavesdrop on these two friends daydreaming about winning the lottery. Select ALL the grammatically correct wishes they make.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I wish I didn't have to work tomorrow.
- **B)** If only we are rich.
- **C)** I wish I would buy a private jet.
- **D)** If only we lived in a giant mansion.

13. Read the thoughts of a commuter stuck in a massive traffic jam and choose the best words to complete the sentences.

If only I _____ a flying car right now! I wish I _____ a secret shortcut to bypass all this mess.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had
- **B)** have
- **C)** would have

Blank 2

- **A)** knew
- **B)** know
- **C)** have known

14. Complete the frustrated apartment renter's text message.

The people upstairs are learning to tap dance at midnight again. I wish they ___ so much noise!

Select one.

- **A)** don't make
- **B)** aren't making
- **C)** didn't make
- **D)** won't make

15. Help the disappointed theme park visitor express his regrets by selecting the correct words.

I wish I _____ taller so I could finally ride the legendary "Vomit Comet" rollercoaster. If only the safety rules _____ so strict about height!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** were
- **B)** am
- **C)** have been

Blank 2

A) weren't
B) aren't
C) won't be