

1 You use *wish* to talk about something that you would like to happen or to be the case:

You can make a wish about something to do with the present:

It's cold. I wish it was a bit warmer. I'm hungry. I wish I had something to eat.

or about something to do with the past:

I forgot my overcoat. I wish I had brought it. I wish I hadn't forgotten it.

Notice the tenses. You use the past tense to talk about the present, and the past perfect to talk about the past. You also use the past tense of the modals.

You do not use *can*, you use *could*:

I'm tired. I wish I could go to bed. It's late. I wish we could go home.

If you want someone to do something but they are not going to do it you can say *I wish they would ...*:

He's very silly. I wish he would be more careful.

They're very noisy. I wish they wouldn't shout so much.

Often you just say *I wish they hadn't* or *I wish they wouldn't*:

They are making a dreadful noise. I wish they wouldn't.

He's gone out again. I wish he hadn't.

2 You can use an *if* clause to talk about something which isn't happening:

If I was a year older I could drive a car.

If I had enough money I would buy a new bike.

Notice that you use past tense forms. Very often you have the past tense in the *if* clause and *would* or *could* or *might* in the other clause:

I'd (I would) certainly come and see you if I had time.

If you lived nearer you could come over on the bus.

If you left before breakfast you might get there before lunch.

Notice that you can use *were* instead of *was* in *if* clauses:

If I were older I could drive a car.

But this is very formal, except in the expression *if I were you ...* (see below).

3 There are some very common expressions with this pattern:

If I were you I'd ... is often used to give advice:

A: I'm not very well. What should I do? B: If I were you I'd see a doctor.

I would if I could ... is often used to make an excuse:

A: Will you give me a lift? B: I would if I could, but I'm just too busy.

A Rewrite these sentences as wishes:

- 1 It's raining again. *I wish it wasn't raining.* _____
- 2 I don't know the answer. _____
- 3 Jack won't help us. _____
- 4 I didn't see Angela this morning. _____
- 5 We don't live here. _____
- 6 Mary never telephones. _____
- 7 Paul didn't write last week. _____
- 8 I haven't enough time. _____

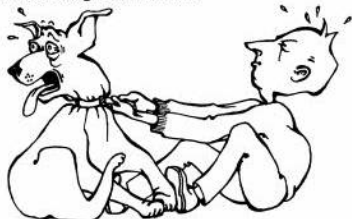
B Match these parts to make conditional sentences:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 If the weather was warmer | a we could get there before lunch. |
| 2 If you asked Peter | b you could look it up. |
| 3 If I had a better job | c I would be much warmer. |
| 4 If we got up early | d we could go for a drive. |
| 5 If we could borrow the car | e we could go for a swim. |
| 6 If I knew the answer | f I would earn more money. |
| 7 If you had a dictionary | g I would tell you. |
| 8 If I had a coat | h he might help you. |

C Rewrite these sentences as conditionals:

- 1 I'm ill, so I can't play basketball. *If I wasn't ill I could play basketball.* _____
- 2 I haven't enough money, so I can't buy it. _____
- 3 She's not tired, so she won't go to bed. _____
- 4 We haven't much time so we can't wait for him. _____

5 He's so big it won't fit him.



If _____

6 'It's so cold we can't go out today.'



If _____

- 7 They haven't got a map so they can't find the way. _____
- 8 They don't know the way so they need a map. _____
- 9 Oh dear! I've got them all wrong. I'll do the exercise again. _____