

“Wish”

- ❖ Wish is used to express a desire for something that is not true, a situation we want to change, or something we want to happen. The verb form after wish depends on the meaning and time.

1. Present and Future Wishes

- We use wish + past simple when we want the present situation to be different from reality.
- Structure: Subject + wish(es) + subject + past simple
Examples:
 - I wish I were rich. (I am not rich.)
 - She wishes she lived in Addis Ababa. (She does not live there.)
 - I wish I knew the answer. (I do not know it.)
 - They wish they had a bigger classroom. (Their classroom is not big enough.)
 - He wishes he spoke English fluently. (He does not speak it fluently.)
 - We wish our school had a library. (Our school does not have one.)

Note: Although the situation refers to the present, we use the past simple form to show that the wish is unreal or contrary to the present situation. This is sometimes called the unreal past.

2. Past Wishes and Regrets

- We use wish + past perfect to express regret about something that happened or did not happen in the past.
- Structure: Subject + wish + subject + had + past participle (V3)
 - I wish I had studied harder for the examination. (I didn't study harder.)
 - He wishes he hadn't missed the bus yesterday. (He missed the bus)
 - We wish we had arrived earlier.
 - Meaning: The past cannot be changed; the speaker regrets what happened.

3. Wishes About Ability/ wish+ could/

- We use wish + could + base verb when we want an ability or opportunity that we do not currently have.

- Structure: Subject + wish(es) + subject + could + V1

Examples:

1. I wish I could speak French. (I want the ability to speak French)
2. He wishes he **could** drive a car, but he has never learned.
3. I wish I could help you.

Clarification: Could- often expresses an unreal ability or possibility in the present or future.

Compare:

- A. I wish I knew how to swim. (I do not have the knowledge or skill.)
- B. I wish I could swim. (I want the ability or opportunity to swim.)

4. Wish + would + base verb

- We use wish + would + base verb when we want someone to change their behavior or when we want a situation to change.
- Structure: Subject + wish(es) + subject + would + V1

Examples:

1. I wish you would stop talking during the lesson.
2. She wishes her brother would help her with the housework.
3. We wish the rain would stop.
4. I wish the government would improve the road.
5. He wishes his neighbors would not make so much noise.

Clarification: These sentences express a desired change, often with **impatience, annoyance, or dissatisfaction.**

➤ Compare:

- ✓ I wish I knew his telephone number. (I do not know it now.)

- ✓ I wish he would tell me his telephone number. (I want him to tell me.)

Important: We do not normally use wish + would to express a simple wish about our own willingness or voluntary action.

- **Incorrect:** I wish I would study harder.
- **Better:** I wish I studied harder. (I want my present study habits to be different.)

❖ Wish vs. Hope

- Wish often expresses an unreal situation or regret: I wish I were taller.
- Hope expresses a desired outcome that is possible: I hope I pass the examination.

GERUND

A **gerund** is the **-ing form of a verb** that functions as a **noun**.

- It can be used in several ways in a sentence.
- **Form:** Base verb + -ing → *reading, swimming, writing, cooking, helping*

❖ Use of Gerund

1. Gerund as Subject

- A gerund can function as the **subject of a sentence**, meaning it performs the action expressed by the verb.
- **Structure:** Gerund + Verb + Object/Complement
- **Rules:**
 - The verb agrees with the gerund phrase as **singular**.
 - The gerund may include objects or modifiers: *Reading novels, Swimming in the river*, etc.

Examples:

1. **Reading** improves your vocabulary.

2. **Swimming** is a good exercise.
3. **Helping** others brings happiness.
4. **Traveling** teaches you new things.
5. **Studying regularly** helps students pass exams.

❖ **Tip:** To check: Replace the gerund with a noun; if the sentence still makes sense, it's correct.

❖ E.g. **Reading** improves vocabulary
Books improve vocabulary.

2. Gerund as Subject Complement

- ❖ A gerund can function as a **subject complement** after a **linking verb** (like *be, become, mean, involve, equal*) to **rename, define, or explain the subject**.
- ❖ **Structure:** Subject + Linking Verb + Gerund
- ❖ **Rules:** Most commonly used after **be** (*is, are, was, were*).
 - Explains **what the subject is or does**.

Examples:

1. My hobby **is reading** novels.
2. Success **means working** hard.
3. Leadership **involves making** decisions.
4. Progress **equals learning** from mistakes.

3. Gerund as Object of a Verb

- Certain verbs are followed by a **gerund**, which acts as the **direct object** of the verb.
 - The gerund **receives the action** of the verb.
 - **Structure:** Subject + Verb + Gerund
 - **Common Verbs that Take Gerunds:**
 - **Verbs of liking/disliking:** like, love, enjoy, hate, prefer, dislike
 - **Verbs of thinking/decision:** consider, suggest, avoid, admit, deny, risk, imagine
 - **Other verbs:** finish, practice, miss, keep, give up, appreciate, postpone
- Examples:**

1. She **enjoys reading** novels.
2. He **finished writing** the report.
3. They **avoided meeting** the manager.

- **Common verbs followed by gerunds include:** enjoy, avoid, finish, admit, deny, mind, suggest, consider, practice, keep, postpone, miss, recommend, imagine, risk, and quit.
- **Tip:** Ask “What?” after the verb. The answer is usually the gerund.
 - She enjoys **what?** → *reading*.

4. Gerund as Object of a Preposition

- After a **preposition**, the gerund acts as the **object of the preposition**.
- Infinitives (to + verb) cannot be used in this position.
- **Structure:** Preposition + Gerund
- **Common Prepositions Used with Gerunds:**
- *in, on, at, of, about, after, before, by, for, from, without, instead of, to*

Examples:

1. She is interested **in reading** novels.
2. He left **without saying** goodbye.
3. Thank you **for helping** me.
4. We succeeded **in solving** the problem.
5. Before **sleeping**, brush your teeth.
6. He's good **at speaking** English.
7. I'm tired **of waiting**.
8. She prevented me **from going** there.

- ❖ **Tip:** Prepositions **always** require the **-ing form**, not infinitives.
- ❖ **Remember:** After a preposition, use a gerund when the next word expresses an action.
e.g He *apologized for coming* late.

❖ Gerund after phrasal verbs

- Some phrasal verbs are followed by gerunds.
Examples:

1. He **gave up** smoking.
2. She **carried on** working.
3. They **put off** meeting the principal.
4. I **look forward to** seeing you.