

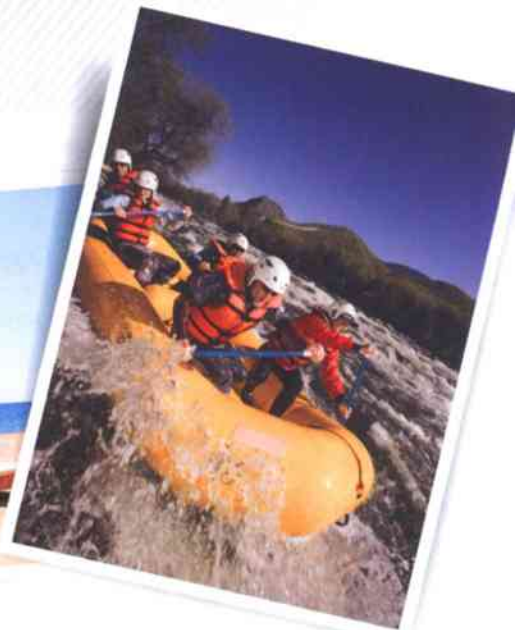
8.2 Grammar

Unreal past and regrets – wish, if only, it's time and would rather

I can express wishes and regrets using phrases like *it's time* and *would rather*.

- 1 In pairs, discuss your idea of an ideal holiday and a nightmare holiday. Use the words in the box and your own ideas.

adventure alone beach camping
great nightlife historic monuments
hot sun mountains museums no wi-fi
peace and quiet water sports
with the family with friends



- 2 **CD-3.21 MP3-118** Listen to the Moss family discussing what to do for their next holiday. Answer the questions.

- 1 What suggestions do they make?
- 2 What do you think they will probably do?

- 3 **CD-3.21 MP3-118** Who said what? Write **B** for Ben, **E** for Ellie, **M** for Mum and **D** for Dad. Then listen again and check.

- 1 'If only we could go somewhere exciting for a change.' ☐
- 2 'I think it's time we did something cultural.' ☐
- 3 'I wish you all realised how much I look forward to doing nothing for two weeks.' ☐
- 4 'I'd rather we went to the same campsite we went to last year.' ☐

- 4 Read **GRAMMAR FOCUS I** and answer the questions about the sentences in Exercise 3.

- 1 Which sentences refer to the present and which refer to the future?
- 2 Which tense is used after the underlined phrases?

GRAMMAR FOCUS I

Unreal past

- You use **wish/if only + sb + a past tense** to say that somebody really wants a present or future situation to be different.
- You use **it's (high) time + sb + a past tense** to say that somebody should do something (now or in the future).
- You use **would rather + sb + a past tense** to say what somebody would prefer somebody else to do (now or in the future).

- 5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Then tick the sentences that are true for you.

- 1 It isn't summer. I wish it was summer.
- 2 We always go to the mountains but I prefer the sea. I'd rather we ...
- 3 I ought to learn how to ski. It's time I ...
- 4 I can't drive. I wish I ...
- 5 I really need to plan my next holiday. It's high time I ...
- 6 It's raining. If only it ...

- 6 **CD-3.22 MP3-119** Listen to the Moss family talking after the holiday. Choose the correct verb form to explain the meaning of these extracts.

- 1 'If only I'd worn more sunscreen.' =
Ellie wore / didn't wear enough sunscreen.
- 2 'I wish I hadn't forgotten my camera.' =
Ben had / didn't have his camera with him.
- 3 'I wish you'd fallen in, too.' =
Ben fell out / didn't fall out of the raft with Ellie.
- 4 'I just wish I'd known about the mosquitoes.' =
Mum knew / didn't know that there were mosquitoes.

- 7 Complete **GRAMMAR FOCUS II** with the phrases in blue in Exercise 6.

GRAMMAR FOCUS II

Past regrets

You use **wish/if only + sb + Past Perfect** to talk about past regrets.

If only ¹ _____ more sunscreen.

I wish ² _____ my camera.

Note: *If only* is stronger than *wish*.

- 8 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Do you have any of these regrets?

- 1 I wish I _____ (go) on holiday with my friends last summer.
- 2 If only I _____ (revise) more for my last English test.
- 3 I wish my parents _____ (be) born in another country.
- 4 I wish I _____ (not give up) piano lessons a few years ago.
- 5 I wish my brother/sister _____ (not be) so horrible to me when we were kids.
- 6 If only I _____ (go) to bed earlier last night.

- 9 Complete the sentences to make them true for you. Then compare with a partner.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 I wish I could ... | 4 If only I hadn't ... |
| 2 It's high time I ... | 5 I wish my parents ... |
| 3 I'd rather people didn't ... | 6 If only my friends ... |

Grammar Focus page 140