

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Rewrite the sentences using impersonal passive structures.

- 1 Many people consider Bob Dylan to be the most influential musician of the twentieth century.
Bob Dylan _____.
- 2 In February newspapers reported that crime levels were falling faster.
It _____.
- 3 Linguists expect that by 2050 7,000 languages will disappear.
7,000 languages _____.
- 4 Nutritionists say that kale is the most nutrient-dense food there is.
Kale _____.
- 5 Palaeontologists think there were over 500 different species of dinosaur.
There _____.
- 6 Experts believe that 1.24 million people were killed in road traffic accidents in 2010.
Road traffic accidents _____.
- 7 We now know that cats are able to produce about ninety different sounds more than dogs.
Cats _____ more than dogs.

8.2

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

Present and future

- To express regret about a present situation which seems to be impossible to change, we use **wish/if only** + subject + Past Simple:

I wish I knew more about ecology.

I wish oceans weren't used as rubbish tips.

If only we could save sea animals from starvation.

If only I didn't have to work so much.

Wish and if only have a similar meaning, but if only is more emphatic than wish. It expresses greater regret.

- To say that we believe somebody should do something in the present or in the near future, we use **it's (high) time** + subject + Past Simple:

It's high time people stopped driving cars in cities.

It's high time you started recycling your rubbish.

- To say what we would prefer somebody to do in the present or future, we use **would rather** + subject + Past Simple:

I'd rather we switched to organic fruit and vegetables.

My mum would rather I didn't eat my room.

Past

To express regret about a past situation, we use **wish/if only** + subject + Past Perfect:

I wish we had done more to prevent this tragedy.

My ex-boyfriend wishes we hadn't broken up.

If only the city council hadn't reduced the funds for environmental protection.

If only I had listened to you when you advised me not to go on that expedition!

Choose the correct options.

- 1 If only I *lost* / *hadn't lost* / *didn't lose* my camera on the beach that day.
- 2 It's high time we *stop* / *stopped* / *had stopped* dumping waste in the seas.
- 3 My back's all red. I wish I *had* / *did* / *would* put more sun cream on.
- 4 I'd rather she *couldn't* / *didn't* / *won't* go swimming on her own, to be honest.
- 5 If only I *hadn't to* / *had to* / *didn't have to* go camping. I hate sleeping in tents.
- 6 I wish you *knew* / *had known* / *know* just how much effort I put into this trip.
- 7 If only I *had seen* / *saw* / *did see* her earlier. I'd have asked her to join us.

8.5

Emphasis – cleft sentences and inversion

Cleft sentences

Cleft sentences are used to give emphasis to the person performing an action or to the place, time or reason of the action:

I love helping other people. →

What I really love is helping other people.

They start with **what**, **it** or **all**:

The company covered up the scandal. →

What the company did was (to) cover up the scandal.

I raised the subject of sewage being dumped into the river. →

It was me who raised the subject of sewage being dumped into the river.

We helped the flood victims clean up the debris. →

All we did was (to) help the flood victims clean up the debris.

You need love. → All you need is love.