

Intermediate 1
Unit 6: Grammar
Presented by Mohammad Rajabpur

Wishes about the Past

If you want to make a wish about a situation in the past and express your regret about something that you did or you didn't, you should use a that-clause after wish and in the that-clause, you must use the past perfect tense.

Past Perfect Simple = Subject + had(n't) + Past Participle + ...
Past Perfect Progressive = Subject + had(n't) + been + Verb+ing + ...

Examples:

The Situation: Robert had a terrible accident last night. Now he is regretful about it.

*Now he wishes (that) he **had driven** carefully last night.*

⇒ He didn't drive carefully. Now he feels sorry about it.

*Now he wishes (that) he **hadn't been driving** carelessly last night.*

⇒ He was driving carelessly. Now he feels sorry about it.

*He wishes (that) he **had been** careful.*

⇒ He wasn't careful. Now he feels sorry about it.

*He wishes (that) he **hadn't been** careless.*

⇒ He was careless. Now he feels sorry about it.

The Situation: I loved architecture when I was at high school. But I didn't study architecture at university. Now I'm regretful about it.

*I wish (that) I **had studied** architecture at university.*

⇒ I didn't study architecture at university. Now I feel sorry about it.

*I wish (that) I **had continued** my studies in architecture.*

⇒ I didn't continue my studies in architecture. Now I feel sorry about it.

*I wish (that) I **had become** an architect.*

⇒ I didn't become an architect. Now I feel sorry about it.

*I wish (that) I **hadn't studied** medicine at university.*

⇒ I studied medicine at university. Now I feel sorry about it.

More Examples:

I wish I had studied harder for the exam.

She wishes she had not missed the bus.

He wishes he had told her the truth.

They wish they had gone to the concert.

We wish we had bought the tickets earlier.

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)