

Other Hypothetical Forms: Wish versus Hope

Wish

Wish indicates that the speaker wants reality to be the opposite of what it is. To express wishes about the **future or present**, the past tense is used for the main verb. To express wishes about the **past**, the past perfect is used for the main verb. “*Were*” is used for singular and plural subjects when the main verb is “*be*”. “*That*” is optional after **wish**.

I wish (that) Mary were coming to the party. (Reality: She is not coming to the party.)

They wish (that) their apartment had more space. (Reality: They don’t have more space.)

Colleen wishes she had studied for the test. (Reality: She didn’t study.)

I wish they had come to my wedding. (Reality: They didn’t come.)

Hope

Hope is used to express a desired result or outcome. This outcome is possible. To express hopes about the present, the present tense is used. To express future hopes, the present or future tense is used. **Hope** can be followed by a noun, pronoun or infinitive. “*That*” is optional after **hope**.

I hope (that) you like the food I cooked. (desired outcome for the present)

I hope (that) you had a good vacation. (desired outcome for past event)

Sam hopes the weather is (will be) nice for his pool party. (desired outcome for the future)

They hoped the teacher would like the gift. (desired outcome in the past)

Dan hoped to retire by the time he was 65. (desired outcome in the past)

Complete the sentences with the present tense of HOPE or WISH.

1. I _____ you feel better soon.
2. Allison _____ her husband had remembered their anniversary.
3. The employees _____ to get a raise later this year.
4. James _____ his girlfriend would call him more often.
5. The boss _____ the workers were more reliable.
6. Amy _____ that she receives a new jacket for her birthday.
7. They _____ they had gone to a different restaurant for dinner.
8. I _____ I had bought that sweater at the mall. It was really nice.
9. She _____ that everyone will come to her party.
10. My brother _____ that he will get the new job he applied for.