

Activity Type

Grammar and Writing Game: forming and writing sentences from prompts, freer practice (group work)

Focus

Regrets about the past

I wish/If only + past perfect

Health problems

Aim

To use *I wish* and *If only + the past perfect* to express regrets about health problems.

Preparation

None

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

In this expressing regrets game, students use *I wish* and *If only + the past perfect* to express regrets about health problems.

Procedure

Explain to the students that you are going to read out different health problems and that they have to write appropriate regrets using *I wish* and *If only + the past perfect*.

Demonstrate the activity by writing an example ailment on the board, e.g. 'I've got a toothache'.

Elicit appropriate regrets the speaker could express.

Examples:

I wish I hadn't eaten so many sweets.

If only I had gone to the dentist more often.

Next, divide the class into teams of three. Assign one student in each team to do the writing.

Read out the first health problem and set a time limit of two minutes.

The teams then write down as many regrets as they can for the ailment using *I wish* and *If only + the past perfect*.

When the time limit has been reached, tell the teams to stop writing and swap their paper with another team for marking.

Teams score one point for each appropriate and grammatically correct regret. Write the scores on the board and then read out the next health problem. The team with the highest score at the end of the game wins.

This game could also be used to express regrets about general problems.

Health problems:

1. I've got a stomachache.
2. I've got a cold.
3. I've got a headache.
4. I've got sunburn.
5. I've got a twisted ankle.
6. I've cut my finger.
7. I've got a sore throat.
8. I've burnt myself.
9. I've damaged my hearing.
10. I've hurt my back.