

CAE Part 4 Key word transformations

Wishes - regrets

1. Sandra regretted not being able to visit her grandmother more often.

WISHED

Sandra _____ visit her grandmother more often.

2. I really regret making such a stupid mistake.

ONLY

If _____ such a stupid mistake!

3. I wish Jack had bought tickets for Venice but he took me to Paris instead.

RATHER

Jack bought us tickets to Paris but I _____ to Venice.

4. It would be better if you called Sally before 10 o'clock, if you don't mind.

NOT

Sally _____ her after 10 o'clock, if you don't mind.

5. Eating worms would be preferable than talking to that man!

SOONER

I _____ than talk to that man!

6. I really need to buy a new pairs of jeans as these ones are ripped.

HIGH

It _____ a new pair of jeans as these ones are ripped.

I wish If only I would rather I would sooner It's time

I wish/If only + subject + past tense (to talk about present situations)

[I wish I were on the moon with my colleagues.]

I wish/If only + subject + past perfect (to talk about past regrets)

[If only I had brought some crossword puzzles here with me.]

Subject + would + rather/sooner + infinitive (to talk about personal preference)

[I would sooner be at home with my wife and kids than here.]

Subject + would + rather/sooner + subject + past tense (to talk about preferences for others' behaviour)

[I would rather you didn't tell my parents about the party on Saturday.]

Subject + would rather + subject + past perfect (to talk about preferences for others' behaviour)

[I would rather you hadn't told my parents about the party on Saturday.]

It's (high/about) time + subject + past tense (expresses that something should be done and that it is already a bit late)

[It's (high/about) time we left this terrible party.]