

## 12.2 If I could turn back time ...

### Vocabulary life events and choices

1 Complete each sentence with one or two words. The first letter is given.

- It takes courage to ask for a pay rise, but it's usually worth the risk.
- For our first d\_\_\_\_\_, my husband and I went for a pizza.
- Don't be rude about someone's appearance; that's just m\_\_\_\_\_.
- She had an unusual c\_\_\_\_\_ p\_\_\_\_\_; first she was an actor, then she retrained as a doctor.
- I never work at the weekend. It's important to spend q\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ with my family.
- As well as being a lovely house, his p\_\_\_\_\_ has doubled in value since he bought it.
- I'm worried that my p\_\_\_\_\_ won't be enough to live on when I retire.
- They had a huge r\_\_\_\_\_, and now they're not speaking to each other.
- You need to stop wasting time and t\_\_\_\_\_ your studies s\_\_\_\_\_.

2 Put the words in brackets in the correct order to complete the sentences.

- Bullies often stop if you stand up to them (them / stand / up / to).
- My mother taught me to always \_\_\_\_\_ (up / with / make / someone) straightaway after a row.
- He's nearly forty now. Isn't it time he \_\_\_\_\_ (with / down / settled / someone)?
- He was offered the job, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (it / down / turned).
- It's hard for him to give up smoking now because he \_\_\_\_\_ (it / took / up) when he was just a teenager.
- This is a great investment opportunity – don't \_\_\_\_\_ (miss / it / on / out).

→ **STUDY TIP** All the verbs in exercise 2 are phrasal verbs. When you learn phrasal verbs, make sure you note whether they can be separated. For example, 'turn down a job' or 'turn a job down' are both possible – but 'stand up to someone' is inseparable, and *cannot* be 'stand up someone to'.

3 Choose the best options to complete the text.

## #FOMO

### and how to get over it

We've probably all felt it at some point, that disturbing thought that people are having a good time without us. It's so common, it even has a name – FOMO, or 'fear of missing <sup>1</sup>out/on'. We worry that if we <sup>2</sup> *turn down / take up* an invitation, it might just be the party of the year and we won't be there. But if that means we agree to go to everything, then we won't be able to spend much quality <sup>3</sup> *opportunity / time* at home with our family.

If we are concerned that <sup>4</sup> *settling down / making up* early will mean less adventure and travel, well, it probably will. But then again, those who choose to concentrate on their <sup>5</sup> *work / career* path might worry about whether they will ever meet the right person to start a family with.

Beating FOMO means having the <sup>6</sup> *courage / value* to accept that someone else probably is having more fun than you, while realizing that what matters is to enjoy the life you are living now, rather than always worrying about what everyone else is doing.



## Grammar using *wish* and *if only*

4 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Add *would* where appropriate.

- I wish you would stop (stop) making so much noise.
- If only I \_\_\_\_\_ (not lose) my bag. It had my wedding ring in it.
- I wish I \_\_\_\_\_ (pay) attention more in class, I might not have failed the exam.
- I wish the holidays \_\_\_\_\_ (come). I'm really ready for a break.
- If only he \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) smoking. I'm worried about his health, but he doesn't seem to care.
- I wish you \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the job. I think it was a mistake to turn it down.
- I wish you \_\_\_\_\_ (take) the job, is there anything I can say to persuade you?
- If only you \_\_\_\_\_ (live) nearer ... I'd love to meet up more often.

5 Complete the quotes using the words and phrases in the box.

could see ~~had invented~~ had known might have done wasn't

'I have often said that I wish I  
1 had invented blue jeans: the most  
spectacular, the most practical, the  
most relaxed and nonchalant. They  
have ... all I hope for in my clothes.'

**Yves St Laurent, fashion designer**

'If only we 2 \_\_\_\_\_ the endless  
string of consequences that result  
from our smallest actions. But we  
can't know better until knowing  
better is useless.'

**John Green, author**

'The release of atom power has  
changed everything except our way  
of thinking ... the solution to this  
problem lies in the heart of mankind.  
If only I 3 \_\_\_\_\_, I should  
have become a watchmaker.'

**Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist**

'Success makes so many people  
hate you. I wish it 4 \_\_\_\_\_ that  
way. It would be wonderful to enjoy  
success without seeing envy in the  
eyes of those around you.'

**Marilyn Monroe, film star**

'The art of acceptance is the art of making someone  
who has just done you a small favour wish that he  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ you a greater one.'

**Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights activist**

6 Choose the correct option to complete each sentence.

- I wish he *wasn't* / *hope he isn't* late this time.
- If only she *wasn't* / *isn't* married to my best friend.
- I wish you *stopped* / *would stop* calling me that silly name.
- She wishes she *had never met* / *would never meet* him.
- If only the weather *was* / *had been* better. The rain spoiled the holiday.
- He wished he *had bought* / *bought* a better seat. He couldn't see much of the play at all.

### I can ...

Very well    Quite well    More practice

talk about life events and choices.

      

use *wish* and *if only* for wishes and regrets.