

Past Regrets

Joan Macphail

APPENDIX A: *Factual and Contrary-to-Fact Sentences*

a. I didn't learn to play the piano.	f. I should have remembered his birthday!
b. Oh no—I forgot it was his birthday!	g. I wish I had learned to play a musical instrument.
c. I ate too much pizza in the restaurant!	h. I wish I had only eaten two slices!
d. I had an argument with my best friend.	i. I wish I had been more understanding!
e. I overslept and missed the bus.	j. I should have woken up earlier.

APPENDIX B: *Tasks Sheet*

TASK A: In the following examples, label the underlined verbs with their tense forms.

i) Simple past ii) Past perfect iii) Past tense of a modal

1. I shouldn't have eaten so much.
2. I ate too much.
3. I wish I hadn't been so greedy.

TASK B: What do you think happened? Match the statements above with the correct description below:

- a. I ate four slices of pizza and I really enjoyed it.
- b. I ate a lot and now I don't feel so good!
- c. I'm the only one with a mountain of food from the buffet on my plate and I feel embarrassed!

APPENDIX C: *Contrary-to-Fact Sentence Rules*

Rules for writing contrary-to-fact sentences: Match the sentence halves.

When we talk of a real past event,	. . . we usually use the simple past tense.
When we use a modal verb to express an unreal past event,	. . . the form is: modal + <i>have</i> + past participle.
After <i>I wish</i> ,	. . . we use the past perfect tense to express the unreal past.