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Hope vs. Wish

Wish is most commonly used in hypothetical (or imagined) situations:

I wish that I had a dog. (I don't really have a dog, but if I did, I would be happy.)

I wish (that) you were here. (Unfortunately, you're not, and I miss you.)

Sometimes **wish** is used in greeting and expressions of goodwill:

We wish you a "Merry Christmas." (S V IO DO)

They wished him "Happy Birthday."

Wish me luck.

Hope can also be used in expressions of goodwill, but the grammar is slightly different:

I hope (that) you *have* a Merry Christmas. (some time in the future)

I hope (that) you *had* a nice Birthday. (some time in the past)

Hope can be used to specify a desired outcome. For *future* hopes, the possibilities remain open, but for *past* hopes, the outcome has usually been determined already.

I hope you can come to the party on Saturday. (future possibility)

I was hoping that you would come to the party. (but you didn't make it)

I had hoped to see you at the party on Saturday. (but I didn't)

I hope to get an A on the exam. (it is still possible)

I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow. (although it might)

He hopes to be elected President. (it could happen)

She hoped you wouldn't find her. (but you probably did)

Wish and **hope** are also used in certain types of requests and pleasantries. In such situations, **wish** carries a more definite and formal tone.

I wish to see the doctor. (right now)

I hope to see you again. (anytime in the future)