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If Only I'd Taken More Chances

BEATRICE WILLIAMS, 87, LOOKS BACK ON HER LIFE...

I've always been a sensible person, one of those people who never go anywhere without a thermometer, a hot water bottle, a raincoat, and a parachute.

Now I wish I'd made more mistakes. I wish I'd relaxed more and been sillier. I wish I hadn't taken everything so seriously. I wish I'd taken more trips, climbed more mountains, swum more rivers, watched more sunsets, eaten more ice cream, and picked more daisies.

If only I'd taken more chances.



NOW THAT YOU ARE 87 YEARS OLD, WHAT ARE YOUR REGRETS?

I've always been a _____ kind of person.

I wish I had been more _____

I wish I had been less _____

I wish I had _____

I wish I hadn't _____

If only _____

NOW GO OUT AND DO ALL THOSE THINGS SO THAT YOU WON'T HAVE ANY REGRETS WHEN YOU'RE 87!

Teacher's Notes

If Only I'd Taken More Chances

Worksheet

39

ACTIVITY

Whole class: reading, writing, speaking

AIM

To imagine that you are 87 years old, and to talk about past regrets.

GRAMMAR AND FUNCTIONS

Expressing regrets about the past with *I wish/If only* + past perfect

VOCABULARY

General

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student in the class. If you have an overhead projector, photocopy the picture of Beatrice Williams, and what she says at the top of the worksheet, onto an overhead transparency.

TIME

20 minutes

PROCEDURE

1. If you have an overhead projector, display the picture of Beatrice Williams and what she says. Ask the students to read it and make comments about it.
2. Then give one copy of the worksheet to each student in the class and ask them to imagine that they are 87 years old.
3. Tell them that, now that they are 87, they should look back on their lives, think about their regrets and complete the unfinished sentences on their worksheet.
4. When they have done that, ask them to compare with other students in the class if they wish.
5. Finally, tell them that they should go out and do all the things they might regret not doing when they're older.

OPTION

Ask the students to complete the sentences on their worksheet from the point of view of somebody else, either somebody they know or a famous person.