

Practice

1 Write the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first. Use the word in brackets, as in the example.

- 0 I regret the fact that we didn't see the band play.
(could) *I wish we could have seen the band play.*
- 1 It's a pity that you didn't tell us that you were leaving.
(wish)
- 2 Unfortunately, I'm not as agile as I used to be.
(only)
- 3 Her constant criticism of me really gets on my nerves.
(stop)
- 4 I regret not going to university when I was younger.
(gone)
- 5 She would love to have a more responsible post.
(had)
- 6 I've always wanted to have the ability to speak a foreign language really well.
(could)
- 7 It's a real shame we didn't take any photos at that amazing party.
(only)
- 8 I hate having straight hair; curly hair is so much nicer.
(didn't)

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversation by writing one word (or a contraction) in each gap. **▶ 3.23** Listen and check.

- MARCIE Hello, Alan. I didn't expect to see you at the recycling centre!
- ALAN No. I wish I (0) *hadn't* bothered – it took me hours to sort out all these things into separate bags! If (1) it wasn't so complicated! All these containers ...
- MARCIE Well, it's great that you're recycling. I wish more people (2) make the effort.
- ALAN You're quite 'green', aren't you? Don't you have an electric car?
- MARCIE Yes, but I (3) I'd never bought it. It's useless. If (4) only knew how much trouble it's given me!
- ALAN I'm sorry to hear that. They can't go very far between charges, can they?
- MARCIE No – and I (5) they (6) told me that before I bought it! I have to travel a lot for my job and it just doesn't go far enough without needing to be recharged.
- ALAN Can't you find places to recharge it?
- MARCIE No, I wish there (7) more, but there's hardly anywhere.
- ALAN I thought the government was giving subsidies to garages to encourage them to set up recharging stations.
- MARCIE Well, I wish somebody (8) told them about it around here! None of the garages I know seems to have one.
- ALAN No, I can't say I've seen any. Anyway, I (9) I (10) stay longer to chat but I've got to get back home.
- MARCIE OK. Well, see you soon.