

-았/었으면 좋겠다

I hope, I wish

Expresses a wish. The past marker inside has nothing to do with past time — it signals that the situation is hypothetical, which is the same trick English plays in "I wish I had more time."

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Last vowel ㅏ or ㅑ	-았으면 좋겠다	오다 → 왔으면 좋겠어요
Any other vowel	-었으면 좋겠다	있다 → 있었으면 좋겠어요
하다 verbs	했으면 좋겠다	했으면 좋겠어요
Plainer version	-(으)면 좋겠다	오면 좋겠어요
Softened request	-아/어 주셨으면	도와주셨으면 좋겠어요
Not past time	hypothetical marker	왔으면 = I wish it would

WHEN TO USE IT

The vowel follows the -았/었- rule, merges included: 왔으면, 갔으면, 했으면. Then 좋겠다 closes it.

The plain -(으)면 좋겠다 also exists and means much the same. The version with 왔/었 feels a shade more wistful — further from reality — which is why it dominates when the wish is unlikely.

Unlike -고 싶다, it is not limited to your own actions. You can wish for the weather, for someone else's health, for a situation to change: 내일 비가 안 왔으면 좋겠어요.

It also softens requests. 조금만 조용히 해 주셨으면 좋겠어요 is a good deal gentler than an outright 조용히 해 주세요.

IN USE

- 1 내일 비가 안 왔으면 좋겠어요.
I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow.
- 2 시간이 좀 더 있었으면 좋겠어요.
I wish I had a bit more time.
- 3 가족들이 모두 건강했으면 좋겠어요.
I hope my family all stay healthy.
- 4 조금만 조용히 해 주셨으면 좋겠어요.
I'd be grateful if you could keep it down a little.
- 5 이번 시험을 잘 봤으면 좋겠어요.
I hope I do well on this exam.
- 6 빨리 봄이 왔으면 좋겠다.
I wish spring would come soon.

COMPARED WITH

-고 싶다

-고 싶다 wants to do something and is limited to your own actions. This construction wishes a situation were so, including things beyond your control.

쉬고 싶어요. (I want to rest) / 비가 안 왔으면 좋겠어요. (I hope it doesn't rain)

-(으)면 좋겠다

Both are correct. The 왔/왔 version feels further from reality and a little more heartfelt; the plain one is closer to a practical preference.

시간이 있으면 좋겠어요. (it'd be good to have time) / 시간이 있었으면 좋겠어요. (I really wish I had time)

-기를 바라다

The formal written equivalent, common in speeches and letters. In conversation it sounds stiff.

건강했으면 좋겠어요. (speech) / 건강하시기를 바랍니다. (formal)

WATCH OUT

X 가족들이 건강하었으면 좋겠어요.

O 가족들이 건강했으면 좋겠어요.

하다 becomes 했 in this position, exactly as it does in the past tense.

X 어제 비가 안 왔으면 좋겠어요. — meaning yesterday

O 어제 비가 안 왔으면 좋았을 텐데요.

The 왔/왔 here marks a hypothetical wish about now or later, not past time. For regret about yesterday, the whole construction changes.

X 저는 한국에 갔으면 좋겠어요. — meaning "I want to go"

O 저는 한국에 가고 싶어요.

For your own intended action, -고 싶다 is the natural choice. 좋겠다 suits situations you cannot simply decide.