



All Ears English Episode 173:

Wish vs. Hope in English: What's the Difference?

Lindsay: This is an All Ears English Podcast, Episode 173: “Wish vs. Hope in English: What’s the Difference?”

[Instrumental]

Gabby: Welcome to the All Ears English Podcast, where you’ll finally get real, native English conversation with your hosts, Lindsay McMahon, the ‘English Adventurer’ and Gabby Wallace, the ‘Language Angel’, from Boston, USA.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: Do you wish you could use *wish* correctly? Do you hope for more *hope* in your life? Find out the difference between these two words, ‘wish’ and ‘hope’ today.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: Gabby, is it true that you’re leaving me in Boston and you’re moving to Japan?

Gabby: It’s true Lindsay. But it’s okay. We’re going to continue the All Ears English podcast as normal. And, for you listeners, who are in Tokyo, I want you to come join me in person, in Tokyo at a live, monthly meetup event. The



only way that you can find out the time, the day, the location, is to get on our signup list at AllEarsEnglish.com/Japan. And if you want to come from outside Tokyo, that's cool too. Just come sign up and I'll give you the information.

Lindsay: And if you're not in Japan, don't worry, you're still going to get Lindsay and Gabby four mornings a week on your podcast.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: Hey, Gabby.

Gabby: Hey, Lindsay. How's it going?

Lindsay: Very well. I'm doing great today. I'm so happy. It is a gorgeous day in Boston.

Gabby: It is beautiful this summer. We've had a great summer.

Lindsay: And it's a great day to talk about our hopes and dreams. What are your hopes and dreams for the future, Gabby?

Gabby: Well, my hopes and dreams for the future include growing our All Ears English community.

Lindsay: Oh, yeah.

Gabby: (Uh), that's a big one. I also, personally, hope to travel more and connect with more people. I want to meet new friends and I also want to have deeper relationships with really good old friends, and (uh), and have, (you know), really, a special relationship with a special someone.

Lindsay: Exactly.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: How 'bout (about) me too.

Gabby: Yeah, how 'bout (about) you, what are your hopes and dreams?



Lindsay: Yeah. I hope to find my life partner, (right). And I hope to spend a lot of time outdoors in the future.

Gabby: Ooh, yeah.

Lindsay: And I hope to build a life where I can be outside a lot.

Gabby: Absolutely.

Lindsay: Because the sunshine really nourishes me, being in nature. It feels great.

Gabby: Yeah. Well, I hope that we can do all of these things, (you know), through and with you guys, our listeners.

Lindsay: Absolutely. So what are we talking about today Gabby?

Gabby: Hopes and dreams.

Lindsay: And wishes.

Gabby: And wishes, yeah. So we noticed that sometimes it's confusing to tell the difference between how we use hopes and (uh) wishes in English. What's the difference and, (uh), how do we use them grammatically, correctly, (right).

Lindsay: Right. So this is a part of our Tuesday series...

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...of the Top 15 FIXES in English.

Gabby: That's right.

Lindsay: And this is Number 15, I believe. Maybe it's 14.

Gabby: This is Number 15, you're correct.

Lindsay: This is Number 15, all right. So...

Gabby: No, this is Number 13.

Lindsay: This is Number 13. Correct.



Gabby: Gosh, I wish I hadn't messed that up.

Lindsay: Oh, good example.

Gabby: Exactly. Exactly.

Lindsay: Okay.

Gabby: So we want to show you some examples. (Um), "I *wish* I hadn't messed that up." (You know), I didn't know what number this episode was. (Um), yeah, so *wish* is often used with the past tense.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: ...to talk about something that you wished had been different. "Oh, I *wish* five seconds ago that I, I had known that information."

Lindsay: Exactly.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: And we can – when we talk about our – let's go deep. I like to go deep. So let's go into our life regrets.

Gabby: Oh.

Lindsay: When we talk about life regrets...

Gabby: Okay.

Lindsay: ...we use this *wish*, right.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: (Mm). "I wished I had started, we had started this podcast earlier, (you know).

Gabby: (Uh).

Lindsay: I had wanted to podcast starting around, gosh, 2010 or '11.

Gabby: Wow.



Lindsay: I'm thinking that would be so cool.

Gabby: Well, (you know), sometimes you have to wait till (until) the moment's right. And I, I didn't know you at that time.

Lindsay: Yeah, it never would've worked.

Gabby: Exactly. Well, it could've worked, but it would've been different.

Lindsay: It wouldn't have been the same.

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: So, so what, what do I wish had been different, what are my regrets? Well, I, I wish that I hadn't spent so many years trying to be just like all the other professors.

Lindsay: Absolutely.

Gabby: I, I wish that I hadn't spent so much time trying to be more normal.

Lindsay: Yeah, and that's a topic we're gonna (going to) talk about a lot more in this podcast...

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...the importance of identifying what makes you fascinating as a person.

Gabby: And unique.

Lindsay: And unique.

Gabby: Right.

Lindsay: And, and, and embracing that.

Gabby: Exactly. Well, (you know), I want to be a good person, I want to be helpful. (You know), I don't want to be weird to the point of, (um), being, (you know), (uh) – how can I say it? Just (um)...



Lindsay: Antisocial.

Gabby: Antisocial or destructive to myself or others, but what I'm trying to say is that I wish I'd spent more time leaning into my uniqueness...

Lindsay: Yeah,

Gabby: ...and figuring out how I can use my unique skills and, (uh) personality traits to serve others.

Lindsay: Exactly. And it's okay to be a little weird. Weird is good Gabby.

Gabby: Weird is good. We're all a little weird, right.

Lindsay: Yeah. What do they say about Austin, Texas? "Keep Austin weird."

Gabby: That's right.

Lindsay: It's good.

Gabby: It's a great thing.

Lindsay: I think we have a couple of listeners in Austin.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: (Uh-huh).

Gabby: So, yeah, that's, that's my wish and like I said, I wish I had not spent so much time trying to be more normal. So you can see we use 'wish' with the past tense. (Um)... go ahead.

Lindsay: And we also use it when we think about something that we *wish* we were doing or that we *wish* we had right now.

Gabby: Like world peace.

Lindsay: Yeah, or the day off.

Gabby: I wish...

Lindsay: I wish I had the day off.



Gabby: Oh. (Um), yeah. I was thinking if I don't use a past tense verb, I could just say, "I wish for world peace," but actually that sounds a little strange doesn't it. I think it would be better to say, (like), "I wish there were world peace."

Lindsay: Or, "I wish we had world peace."

Gabby: This reminds me of a song.

Lindsay: Which one? Are you gonna (going to) sing?

Gabby: I wish I was a little bit taller...

Both: I wish I was a baller. I wish I had a good looking girl, I would call her."

Gabby: Yes. So if anyone's interested in actually listening to that full song, that was a 90s tune, a 90s rap song, by Skeet-lo. "I Wish" is the name of the song and it's actually a great song to listen to, to really remember how to use 'wish'...

Lindsay: Yes.

Gabby: ...in a sentence.

Lindsay: So we've talked about 'wish', what – how 'bout (about) one more example for hope. Because we talked about hope, right at the beginning when we talked about our hopes and dreams...

Gabby: (Mm-huh).

Lindsay: ...but right now, (you know), I bet some of you guys are hoping that you'll get a good TOEFL score.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: "I hope I get a good TOEFL score."

Gabby: Right. Well, and what you just said there, that was interesting because you said, "You guys, probably hope, you *will* get a good TOEFL score," and that's fine. But you also said, "I hope I *get* a good TOEFL score". And that's



fine too. So you see you can use “I hope” with the present tense, like “I hope I get,” or with the future tense “I hope I will get,” or “I hope I’ll get”.

Lindsay: Right.

Gabby: Kind of the same thing.

Lindsay: We do use both, don’t we?

Gabby: We use both. I think we use the present tense more often, (like)...

Lindsay: I think you’re right.

Gabby: ...like, “Oh, I hope, (uh), tomorrow is sunny.”

Lindsay: Yeah.

Gabby: Even though I’m talking about the future, obviously it’s tomorrow I’m talking about. It’s the future, but we can use the present tense to talk about the future. Oh, my gosh, how is that for confusing.

Lindsay: That’s crazy. I hope I have time to take a run this evening.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: (Uh-huh).

Gabby: But we can also use hope with the past tense, like at the end of this episode, I could say, “I hope you enjoyed this episode.”

Lindsay: Right. Or, “I hope you have enjoyed this episode.”

Gabby: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: Okay. Let’s break it down. What’s the most important thing to remember between the two?

Gabby: Yeah. The most important thing is I don’t want to hear, “I hope I was...” That doesn’t work.

Lindsay: No.



Gabby: You can't use – you cannot use hope with the past tense. You have to use 'hope' with the present or future tense.

Lindsay: Right, right. Exactly.

Gabby: "I hope I am successful." "I hope we will be successful."

Lindsay: Right, and 'wish' we want to talk about things right now, or in the past.

Gabby: (Uh-huh).

Lindsay: So 'wish' is going backwards, 'hope' is going forward.

Gabby: Yeah.

Lindsay: Let's break it down that way.

Gabby: Exactly. I think that's very clear and that gives us a good separation to remember 'hope' for the future, 'wish' for the past.

Lindsay: Ooh, I like it. Let's finish there.

Gabby: All right. Well, thanks guys for listening.

[Instrumental]

Lindsay: If you wanna (want to) put your ears into English more often, be sure to subscribe to our podcast in iTunes on your computer or on your smartphone. Thanks so much for listening and see you next time.

