

'WISHLIST' by Pearl Jam

Before listening: fill in the blanks with a suitable word or phrase, choose from the following list:

- a sailor
- a neutron bomb
- a messenger
- a sacrifice
- the verb 'to trust'
- an alien
- the souvenir
- a sentimental ornament
- the pedal brake
- the star
- the evidence
- the grounds
- a radio song
- the full moon

Now listen and check:

I wish I was _____, for once I could go off

I wish I was _____ but somehow still lived on

I wish I was _____ you hung on

The Christmas tree, I wish I was _____ that went on top

I wish I was _____, I wish I was _____

For 50 million hands upraised and open toward the sky

I wish I was _____ with someone who waited for me

I wish I was as fortunate, as fortunate as me

I wish I was _____ and all the news was good

I wish I was _____ shining off a Camaro's hood

I wish I was _____ at home behind the sun

I wish I was _____ you kept your house key on

I wish I was _____ that you depended on

I wish I was _____ and never let you down

I wish I was _____, the one that you turned up, I wish... I wish...

Teacher's notes:

The Band:

[for more info, songs and interviews: <http://pearljam.com/> and <http://www.youtube.com/pearljam>]

Pearl Jam are an American rock band founded back in 1990 by Eddie Vedder (vocals), Stone Gossard (guitar), Jeff Ament (bass), and Mike McCready (guitar). Drummer Matt Cameron joined them later in 1998. They soon became a Grunge icon all over the world with hits such as "Alive", "Daughter", "Black", "Wishlist" and "Jeremy". They have always been very committed to social and political issues, openly opposing George W. Bush's presidency, and supporting social and environmental initiatives through the Vitalogy Foundation.

The Grammar:

1. Use the verb WISH + Past Simple to express profound desire and/or hope, especially when we talk about things or situations that are not the way we would like them to be.

Examples:

<i>actual situation</i>	<i>wish</i>
I am 5 ft. tall. I am not tall, but I would like to be.	I wish I were taller. ☹
Sarah is an only child. She would like to have a sister.	She wishes she had a sister.
Mike and Jenny can't play golf. They would like to be able to play.	They wish they could play golf.

- ☹ Make sure you point out that, at least in written English or in a formal context, they should use "were" instead of "was", but they will hear both in spoken English (take the song, for example).

2. Practice Q&A, first you will be the one asking questions, then make the students ask each other questions:

model dialogue – long answers:

(you might want to instruct students to always answer positively while doing this exercise)

Teacher: "Do you wish you were taller?"

Student A: "Yes, I wish I were taller."

Teacher: "Do you wish you lived in another country?"

Student B: "Yes, I wish I lived in Finland."

model dialogue – short answers:

Student A: "Do you wish you were taller?"

Student B: "Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

Do you wish you had a younger brother?"

Student C: "Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

Do you wish you could swim better?"

The Lyrics

I wish I was a neutron bomb, for once I could go off
I wish I was a sacrifice but somehow still lived on
I wish I was a sentimental ornament you hung on
The Christmas tree, I wish I was the star that went on top
I wish I was the evidence, I wish I was the grounds
For 50 million hands upraised and open toward the sky
I wish I was a sailor with someone who waited for me
I wish I was as fortunate, as fortunate as me
I wish I was a messenger and all the news was good
I wish I was the full moon shining off a Camaro's hood
I wish I was an alien at home behind the sun
I wish I was the souvenir you kept your house key on
I wish I was the pedal brake that you depended on
I wish I was the verb to trust and never let you down
I wish I was a radio song, the one that you turned up, I wish... I wish...