

Then Again

a song by Alan Smith Robertson

<https://youtu.be/AuFZAG9rsG8>

You're going to listen to a song called "Then Again". Do you know what that means?

Try to guess from the context where each of the "I wish..." phrases on the right go. The listen to the song to check your answers.

Song lyrics

How _____ with me
_____ with my needs
Then again you always drive me crazy
You never listen and you never stop complaining

_____ in the bank
_____ you with cash
Then again you'd just go out and spend it
On ugly clothes you'll end up never wearing

NO REGRETS, BUT THEN AGAIN

_____ more at school
_____ like a fool
Then again my teachers were so boring
I need a reason to get up every morning

_____ those weird tattoos
_____ drinking booze
Then again I always was a rebel
Then again my life is very stressful

NO REGRETS, BUT THEN AGAIN

But then again we all make mistakes
But then again you live and learn and that's OK

Now I am so glad I've got my health
I'm glad that I don't need anyone else
Then again _____
_____ and that I were younger

I'm so glad I have more than I need
I'm so glad I'm happy and I'm free
Then again _____
About when I will die and all my money

NO REGRETS, BUT THEN AGAIN

"I wish..." phrases

- I wish I didn't worry
- I wish I had a lover
- I wish I had more hair
- I wish I hadn't acted
- I wish I hadn't got
- I wish I'd never started
- I wish that I could shower
- I wish that I had money
- I wish that I had studied
- I wish that you could help me
- I wish that you were here

Post-listening activities

Are any of the desires or regrets expressed in the song true for you? Give more details

*eg. I wish that I had money in the bank, I would buy a yacht and sail around the world.
When I was younger I got a tattoo. I wish I hadn't got it. My mum hates it and she says it makes me look like a gangster.*

Are there any other things about your life that you would change? Why?

*I wish I had more friends because I feel lonely
I wish my parents were rich because I want to travel more
I wish I didn't enjoy eating chocolate so much because I'm getting fat
I wish I hadn't got a tattoo because it looks ugly
My mum wishes I hadn't got a tattoo because she says it makes me look like a gangster
I wish...*

What about things you are glad for? Why?

*I'm glad I got a piercing because my boyfriend says he loves it
I'm glad I didn't go out last night with my friends; they got into trouble with the police
I'm glad my older sister has gone to university; now I have our bedroom all to myself
I'm glad...*

If you could have any superpower, which one would you like? Why?

*I wish I could fly because then I would be able to travel anywhere in the world
I wish I could become invisible because then...
I wish I could read people's minds
I wish I could...*

Imagine you are on your deathbed. What regrets do you think you will have?

*I wish I had taken more risks in life
I wish my parents had told me about the dangers of smoking
I wish I hadn't spent so much time working
I wish I had...*

Then Again

a song by Alan Smith Robertson designed to practise the structure “I WISH...”

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Teacher's answer sheet. Length: approximately 20 minutes

You're going to listen to a song called “Then Again”. Do you know what that means?

On the other hand... / But then...

Try to guess from the context where each of the “I wish...” phrases on the right go. The listen to the song to check your answers.

Song lyrics

How I wish that you were here with me
I wish that you could help me with my needs
Then again you always drive me crazy
You never listen and you never stop complaining

I wish that I had money in the bank
I wish that I could shower you with cash
Then again you'd just go out and spend it
On ugly clothes you'll end up never wearing

NO REGRETS, BUT THEN AGAIN

I wish that I had studied more at school
I wish I hadn't acted like a fool
Then again my teachers were so boring
I need a reason to get up every morning

I wish I hadn't got those weird tattoos
I wish I'd never started drinking booze
Then again I always was a rebel
Then again my life is very stressful

NO REGRETS, BUT THEN AGAIN

But then again we all make mistakes
But then again you live and learn and that's OK

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Then again I wish I had a lover
I wish I had more hair and that I were younger

I'm so glad I have more than I need
I'm so glad I'm happy and I'm free
Then again I wish I didn't worry
About when I will die and all my money

“I wish...” phrases

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Concerning past regrets, your students might be unwilling to publicly admit to mistakes they have made. If this is the case, just go on to the next question.

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