6

Regrets

Before you watch

1. Work in groups. Read these quotes and discuss what the people meant. Do you agree with them?

"Youth is a blunder; manhood a struggle; old age a regret."  
Benjamin Disraeli, 19th century British Prime Minister

"Nowadays most people die of a sort of creeping common sense, and discover when it is too late that the only things one never regrets are one's mistakes."  
Oscar Wilde, Irish author and playwright

"If I had my life to live over, I'd try to make more mistakes next time."  
Jorge Luis Borges, Argentinian writer

While you watch

2. Watch the programme and match the people with the regrets (a–j). There are two extra regrets.

- a) moving away from his/her mum
- b) not learning to swim
- c) not driving across the USA
- d) getting drunk the night before a wedding
- e) not taking a year out travelling
- f) not knowing his/her father better
- g) starting to smoke
- h) not continuing to work in the theatre
- i) buying a second-hand car
- j) not dating a girl at university
3 Match the two halves of the sentences (a–h with 1–8).

a) If I had stayed nearer
b) I really wish I hadn’t got very drunk
c) I wish that I’d taken a whole year out
d) My biggest regret
e) I do wish I’d gone with them
f) If I had stayed in theatre
g) I wish I’d gone out with her,
h) I regret not having learned to swim

1 I could have been maybe rich and famous.
2 and gone to all the places that you never get a chance to go to.
3 with my brother on the night before his wedding.
4 maybe life would have been different.
5 I feel I would have been able to help her more.
6 because I don’t think I ever will now.
7 when I was a child.
8 is not knowing my father better.

For more work on wishes and regrets, turn to page 95 in the Student’s Book.

After you watch

4 Answer these questions about the people in the programme.
Who …

a) upset a lot of people?
b) has famous friends?
c) is a very independent woman?
d) regrets his/her action, but is comfortable with the decision he/she took?
e) misses out on summer fun?
f) had black hair and olive skin?
g) had a dominating mother?

5 Work in groups and do the following.

a) Rank the regrets from most serious to least serious.
b) Decide which people really regret their decisions and which people don’t.
c) Think of three regrets you have and tell the other members of the group.