

## 6

# Regrets

## Teacher's notes

### Summary

This DVD programme could be used to reinforce the grammar work on regrets in Unit 9, page 95 of the Student's Book. Eight people reveal their main regret in life.

#### Language focus

##### Wishes and regrets

*I wish* + past perfect (Tony, Kate, Lucas, Michael)

*I regret* + -ing (Maria-Elena, (Keith))

unreal conditional (Penny, Sarah)

- For more work on wishes and regrets, refer the students to page 95 in the Student's Book.

### Procedure

#### Before you watch

- Go over the quotations with the students and answer any questions they may have about the language. Ask the students to work in groups and discuss what the people meant. You could also ask the students to give their own opinions about regrets.

#### While you watch

- Tell the students that they are going to watch eight people expressing their main regret in life. Ask the students to match the regrets to the people. Make sure that the students realise that there are two extra regrets. Play the DVD.

Penny = regret a	Lucas = regret c
Tony = regret d	Sarah = regret h
Kate = regret e	Michael = regret j
Keith = regret f	Maria-Elena = regret b

- Ask the students to try to match the two halves of the sentences before they watch the programme again or ask them to read through the sentences first in preparation for watching. Play the programme and ask them to check their answers or match the sentences.

a) 5 (Penny)	e) 6 (Lucas)
b) 3 (Tony)	f) 1 (Sarah)
c) 2 (Kate)	g) 4 (Michael)
d) 8 (Keith)	h) 7 (Maria-Elena)

#### Optional extension

Ask the students to identify the structures used to express wishes and regrets in the sentences in Exercise 3.

#### After you watch

- Ask the students to work together and answer the questions. They should be able to remember the answers without having to watch the programme again.

a) Tony and his brother
b) Sarah
c) Penny's mother
d) Lucas
e) Maria-Elena
f) Michael's classmate
g) Keith

- Put the students in small groups and ask them to rank the regrets in order of seriousness. Get feedback from the whole class on the result of their discussion.

Suggested answers, from most to least serious:  
Keith Penny Michael Sarah  
Maria-Elena Kate Lucas Tony

Then ask the class which people genuinely regretted what happened, and who seemed less genuine. The students will need to remember the interviewees' tone of voice and expressions to do this, and you may need to replay the programme for them.

Suggested answer:  
Tony doesn't seem genuine about his regret.

Next, encourage the students to tell the others in their group about some regrets they have. Explain that they don't have to be major regrets. Ask the students to think for a minute or two, then to work in groups to discuss their regrets. Monitor the students for correct use of *I regret* + -ing, *I wish* ..., and unreal conditionals. Ask the class if there were any regrets similar to those expressed on the programme, or any that individual students would like to share with the whole class.

# 6

## Regrets

*DVD script (04:55)*

### **Penny**

I do regret having moved so far away from my mother. If I had stayed nearer I feel I would have been able to help her more ... um ... even though she is a very independent woman. Um, because of her age, she doesn't get about as well as she used to. I do have my brothers and sisters still living up north but, um, I think I was the favourite and she's very sad that I moved away and that is a big regret in my life.

### **Tony**

I really wish I hadn't got very drunk with my brother on the night before his wedding. We were staying in a hotel and we decided to go for a few drinks in a nearby village. Unfortunately we had a few drinks too many and, um, we got lost on the way back, so we decided to sleep the night in a cornfield, which we did. Er, we eventually arrived back at the hotel one hour before the wedding was due to start and, um, people were a little bit upset with us.

### **Kate**

I wish I'd gone travelling straight after school. I wish that I'd taken a whole year out and gone to all the places that you never get a chance to go to. I've always quite fancied getting a backpack on my back and even just walking or cycling and getting to those bits that are off the beaten track. I've done a bit in my time, I've gone to Thailand and the States and things like that but I've always quite fancied a whole year just getting out there and going out and seeing what's out there but I haven't done it and I don't know if I'll get a chance to now.

### **Keith**

I suppose my biggest regret is not knowing my father better. Um, when he was alive my mother was very dominating and therefore he tended to hide himself behind a newspaper or a book and, um, I regret really not spending more time with him, getting to know a bit more about him. And he was a very interesting person but I really think I could have got to know him better.

### **Lucas**

A couple of years ago my brothers, my two brothers, fulfilled our long, um, cherished dream of driving across America over about five weeks. They went from Georgia to California and I didn't go with them because I had a job and I couldn't really afford it. And while I admit that it was the right thing to do because I couldn't afford it, I do wish I'd gone with them because I don't think I ever will now.

### **Sarah**

I regret not continuing to work in theatre. I think that if I had stayed in theatre I could have been maybe rich and famous, quite successful and I think I would have enjoyed the work in the end. Er, I know that friends of mine who did continue to work in theatre, um, have done very, very well and have become quite famous. Um, and maybe I could have become famous and travelled the world, met different people, had really exciting and very different life, um, but I wasn't strong enough to keep going through the difficult times.

### **Michael**

I have very few regrets in my life but this is one of them. When I was eighteen I was a student. The year was 1965 and there was a girl who joined our college, she was in the next class to me, and she was the most beautiful creature I'd ever seen. She was 21 and she'd been to art college previously and to me seemed terribly sophisticated. She had black hair, olive skin and the most beautiful sparkling black eyes. And whenever she came into the same room that I was in I would really lose my breath. I was so shy, I could never speak to her, but I did go out with her best friend for a time. I wish I'd gone out with her, maybe life would have been different.

### **Maria-Elena**

I regret not having learned to swim when I was a child. I've spent many summer holidays watching my friends having fun in the swimming pool or out water-skiing or something like that and I've been sitting on the beach watching them, thinking it would be great fun to join in. And now that I'm an adult it's much more difficult to learn.