

I wish he **were**



I wish he **was**

I wish he were vs I wish he was

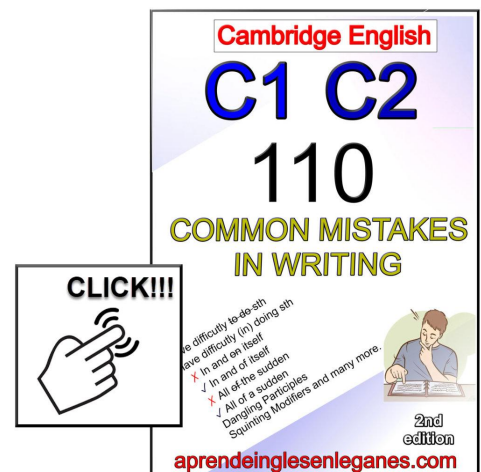
Both "I wish he were" and "I wish he was" are commonly used, but "I wish he were" is technically the grammatically correct form.

The reason for this is that "were" is the subjunctive mood form of the verb "to be", which is used to express a hypothetical or contrary-to-fact condition. In this case, the use of the subjunctive mood suggests that the desired state of affairs (that he is whatever is being wished for) is not currently true.

For example, "I wish he were here" suggests that he is not currently here, but that the speaker desires for him to be.

That being said, the use of the subjunctive mood is becoming less common in modern English, and it is now considered acceptable to use the indicative mood form "was" instead of "were" in many situations, especially in everyday speech. However, if you want to be strictly correct, "I wish he were" is the more appropriate choice.

COMMON MISTAKES IN WRITING vol.2



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