



Learning Grammar

Levels B1 - B2

Second conditional

Use the second conditional in English to talk about unreal, imaginary or unlikely situations (like going on a dream holiday).

Example: If I had a lot of money, I would travel all around the world.

This is an imaginary situation, it's only a dream, In real life I don't have a lot of money, so I can't afford a trip around the world, sniff, sniff, sniff.



The second conditional is made up of two parts:

The hypothetical or unlikely part begins with **if** and is in the past simple

The second part (the possible result of the imaginary situation) is made with **would + infinitive**

If I had a lot of money, I would travel all around the world.

The two parts can be in any order. When the would part is first, you don't need a comma between the two parts.

I would travel all around the world if I had a lot of money.

You can't put two woulds in a second conditional sentence

~~If I would have a lot of money, I would travel all around the world.~~



If I had a lot of money, I would travel all around the world.



In the second conditional, we use **were** with all persons when the verb in the if-clause is a form of **be**. Example: If I were single, I would travel more.

Was is also becoming acceptable, but many grammarians still insist that we should use **were** instead of **was**.



Now, match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. If I had more free time, | a. I would buy that new smartphone. |
| 2. Sonia would be a doctor | b. if you were the president of your country? |
| 3. If she didn't live near here, | c. it would be difficult to see her. |
| 4. If I had money, | d. I'd eat "ceviche" every day. |
| 5. If politicians weren't so corrupt, | e. the world wouldn't be so polluted. |
| 6. If people recycled more, | f. I could learn a new language. |
| 7. What would you do | g. where would you go? |
| 8. If you could fly, | h. if you won a scholarship? |
| 9. Where would you like to study | i. if she were alive. |
| 10. If I lived in Peru, | j. people would believe in them. |



Peruvian "ceviche"

FL activity created by Mr. Juan Jorge Valenzuela Valdez.

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