



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.



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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"

FFL activity created by Mr. Juan Jorge Valenzuela Valdez.

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