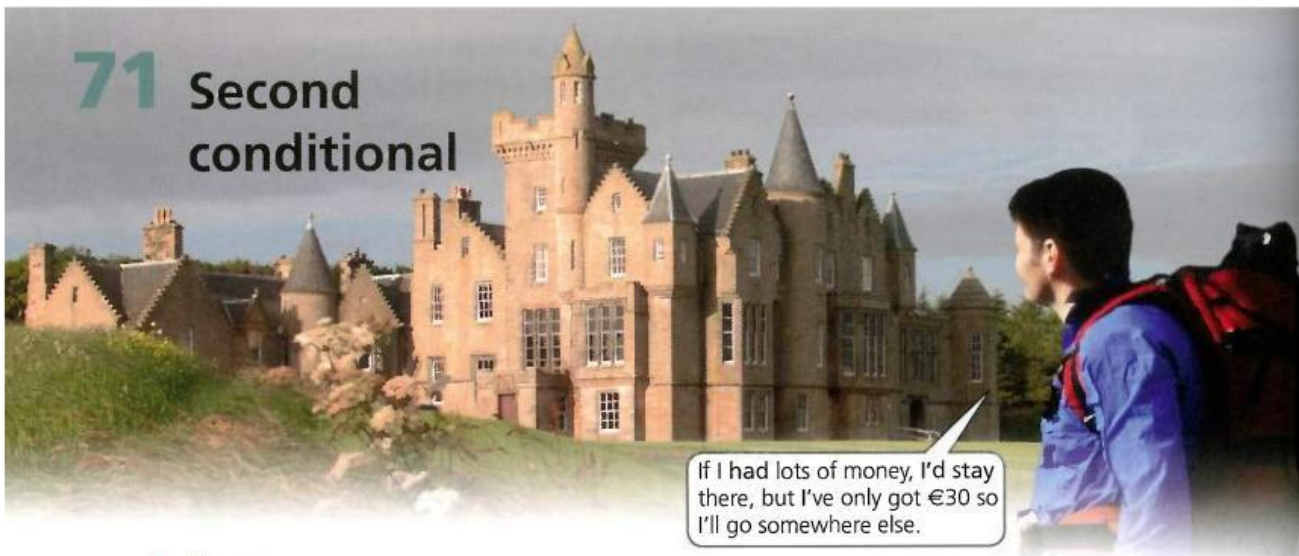


71 Second conditional



1 Form

CONDITION (if ...) past simple	RESULT <i>would (not)</i> + infinitive without to
<i>If I had lots of money,</i>	<i>I'd (I would) stay there.</i>
<i>If I bought a motorbike,</i>	<i>I wouldn't (I would not) take the bus to work.</i>

We use the second conditional to describe a situation that we are imagining in the present or the future.



We use the past tense after *if*:

✗ *If I have lots of money, I'd stay there.* ✓ *If I had lots of money, I'd stay there.*

NATURAL ENGLISH We use the short forms *'d* and *wouldn't* in spoken English and in informal written English.

2 Use

We use the second conditional

- for future situations that probably won't happen:
If I won the race, I'd get a prize.
If Carla got the job, she wouldn't be able to live here anymore.
- for present situations that are not possible:
If David was here, he'd enjoy this film. (He isn't here.)
If I had wings, I'd fly all over the world. (I don't have wings.)
What **would you do** if you **weren't** a student? (You are a student.)

Compare:

FIRST CONDITIONAL	SECOND CONDITIONAL
for something that might happen: <i>If you give me some money, I'll get some ice creams.</i>	for something that probably won't happen or is not possible: <i>If you gave me a million dollars, I'd stop work.</i>

After *if* + *I/he/she/it*, we can use *was* or *were*:

If I was/were the president, I would reduce taxes. *She'd love this place if she was/were here.*

3 if I were/was you ...

We often say *if I were/was you, I'd ...* to give advice:

If I were you, I'd send him a text message. (= I think you should send a text message.)

There's always a big queue so I'd get there early if I were you.

(= I think you should get there early.)

Practice

1 Look at the pictures. Use the words below to complete the sentences.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 0 If I were <i>you</i> I'd lie down.
(you / I / lie down) | 3 If it was
(sunny / I / take / the baby to the park) |
| 1 I'd buy
(that dress / if / I / be / thinner) | 4 If I had
(some food / I / make / you a snack) |
| 2 If I were
(you / I / put on / some sun cream) | 5 I'd
(buy / some new shoes / if / I / be / you) |

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversation with forms of the verbs in brackets ().

- MANDY It would be nicer if this hotel room (0) *had* (have) a view of the sea.
 DAVID I know, but those rooms cost extra. So, what are our plans for the next few days?
 MANDY What about the diving course? It's rather expensive, but ...
 DAVID Mmm. If we (1) (do) that, we wouldn't have any more money!
 What about the two-day trip to Granada?
 MANDY We've already paid for all our meals here. If we went on the two-day trip,
 we (2) (miss) dinner here. What else can we do?
 DAVID I'm not sure. I (3) (look) in the guidebook if I
 (4) (have) it here; but I left it at home. We can ask at reception ...
 MANDY OK, I'll do that. Now what shall I wear for dinner? My new jacket?
 DAVID I (5) (not wear) that if I were you. It's very warm tonight.

3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first.
Use one, two or three words.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 I can't come to the meeting because I'm ill.
If I <i>wasn't ill</i>, I'd come to
the meeting. | 3 I think you should call a doctor.
If, I'd call a doctor. |
| 1 They don't expect to win the match.
They'd be surprised if
the match. | 4 Jack is too fat because he doesn't do
any exercise.
If Jack did some exercise, he
..... fat. |
| 2 You ought to ask for help.
I for help if I were you. | 5 I don't think I'll get a place at Harvard.
I very happy if I got
a place at Harvard. |