

SECOND CONTIONAL

We use the second conditional to talk about things in the future or present that are probably not going to be true.

This situation can be:

- Very improbable (1%-5% probability)
- Completely unrealistic (0% probability)

EXAMPLE

If I won the lottery, I would travel the world.



FORM

To write a sentence in the second conditional, we use,

- **If + past simple - would/wouldn't + verb.**

Example: If I lived in a big city, I would go out more often.

- **Would + verb - if + past simple.**

Example: I would go out more often if I lived in a big city.

When we use the verb "to be" in the second conditional, the past form is always "were" for the subjects I, he, she and it.

PRACTICE

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU WON THE LOTTERY?

Write a short paragraph using the second conditional telling your classmates what you would do.



SECOND CONDITIONAL

Structure **IF + Past Simple, Present Conditional**
(To be: use WERE) (would/wouldn't + Verb (bare form))

Usage

To discuss unreal or unlikely present or future events.

Examples



- If I **were** taller, I **would** play basketball.
- If it **were** sunny, we **would** go for a walk.
- If she **were** here, she **would** help us.
- If they **had** more time, they **would** travel.
- If he **were** older, he **would** drive.
- If it **were** colder, I **would** wear a jacket.
- If she **were** a doctor, she **would** save lives.
- If we **were** rich, we **would** buy a mansion.
- If it **were** Friday, we **would** go out for dinner.
- If I **were** you, I **would** study harder.

Multiple Choice

1. If I had a lot of money, I

- _____ .
- a) will buy a flat in New York
 - b) would buy a flat in New York
 - c) am buying a flat in New York
 - d) buy a flat in New York



2. If he lived in a small village, he would

- _____ .
- a) feed the sheep and cows
 - b) go to the shopping mall
 - c) take the subway
 - d) stay in a skyscraper



3. If my father didn't have a job, he

- _____ .
- a) could live in a big house
 - b) couldn't watch TV
 - c) could buy a yacht
 - d) couldn't pay for the bills



4. If we had bread, sausage, tomato and onion, we would

- _____ .
- a) sleep before dinner
 - b) watch a comedy
 - c) drink tea or coffee
 - d) make a sandwich



5. If she went to Australia, she

- _____ .
- a) can see the kangaroos
 - b) will see the kangaroos
 - c) would see the kangaroos
 - d) sees the kangaroos



6. I would take him for a walk everyday, if I

- _____ .
- a) have a pet dog
 - b) will have a pet dog
 - c) had a pet dog
 - d) am having a pet dog



7. If I were an animal, I

- a) would be a lion
- b) will be a lion
- c) can be a lion
- d) am a lion



8. I wouldn't invite Jenny, if I

- a) organize a party
- b) organized a party
- c) will organize a party
- d) would organize a party



9. Mike would cycle to school, if he

- a) had some homework
- b) had a bicycle
- c) had a good book
- d) had a gold medal



10. I would play the saxophone, if I

- a) were a musician
- b) will be a musician
- c) can be a musician
- d) am a musician



11. If the rain stopped, we would

- a) vacuum the carpet
- b) make a cake
- c) watch a DVD
- d) go out for a walk



12. If David were a good student, he

- a) doesn't cheat in the exam
- b) won't cheat in the exam
- c) wouldn't cheat in the exam
- d) isn't cheating in the exam



13. Luke wouldn't get such bad marks, if he

- a) studied hard enough
- b) studies hard enough
- c) will study hard enough
- d) is studying hard enough



14. If my sister won the lottery, she

- a) would be so poor
- b) would be so upset
- c) would be so tired
- d) would be so pleased



SECOND CONDITIONAL

"if" clause	main clause
If I won a million dollars,	... I would put the money in a bank. ... I could buy an airplane. ... I might give it all away.
main clause	"if" clause
I would put the money in a bank I could buy an airplane I might give it all away	... if I won a million dollars. 

NOTES:

- (1) The second conditional is used to talk about future events that are hypothetical or improbable.
 (2) To form negative sentences, add 'not' after 'would', 'could' and 'might'. Eg "... I might not give it all away."

- **Complete the sentences below by making Second Conditional statements. Use your imagination!**

- If I had longer summer holidays, I would travel more.
- If John did more exercise, _____
- If Mrs. Smith spoke Chinese, _____
- If I won a million dollars, _____
- _____, you could live for 150 years.
- _____, I might look for a new job.
- _____, people would be very surprised.
- _____, he would laugh.
- If aliens landed on Earth, _____
- If animals could talk, _____
- If people lived on the moon, _____
- If I spent all my money, _____