

But what if?

Second Conditional: if + would

1 12.5 Listen to two friends, Robert and Scott.

- Why is Robert worried?
- Why isn't Scott worried about his job?
- Why can't Robert get a job with Scott's company?



2 12.5 Listen again and complete the lines.

- 1 R If I lose my job, what would I do?
- 2 R If you lose your job, what would you do?
- 3 S But if it happened, I would my own business.
- 4 S If I lost you, I would retrain!

GRAMMAR SPOT

1 What verb forms do we use in Second Conditional sentences?

If you **lost** your job, what **would** you **do**?
If it **happened**, I'd **start** my own business.

2 Notice that **was** in the **if** clause can change to **were** with **I** and **he/she/it**.

If I **(was)** **were** you, I'd retrain.
But what if it **(was)** **were** you?

3 Look at what Robert says. How likely are each of these things to happen?

I don't know what I'll do if I **lose** my job.
What **would** you **do** if you **lost** your job, Scott?

Grammar reference 12.3 p152-3

3 12.6 Listen to Charlie and Jessica's dreams. Complete their sentences.

Charlie's dream



I'd like to be bigger. I play rugby and if I **were** bigger and stronger, I **would** be in the first team. And if I **were** really well, I **would** be captain. And then if I **were** really hard, maybe one day I **would** play for England and I **would** see my dad to meet the team. He **would** be so proud of me!

Jessica's dream



I love my kids, but I'd really like to have more time to myself. If I **were** free a weekend without kids, I **would** have a long lie-in. If there **were** a good film on, I **would** go to the cinema in the afternoon, with a friend. On Sunday, if the weather **were** nicer, I **would** take a nice long walk somewhere, maybe on my own! Heaven!

4 What is the reality behind Charlie and Jessica's dreams? Tell a partner the reality and the dream.

Charlie isn't big and strong. If he **were** bigger and stronger, he'd ...

Talking about you

5 Write down three of your dreams. Work in small groups and tell each other what you would do if they were true?
I'd love to work less. If I worked three days a week, I'd ...
I'd really like to be famous. If ...

LIVEWORKSHEETS