

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 _____ my job, what _____ I do?
- 2 **R** If you _____ your job, what _____ you _____?
- 3 **S** But if it _____, I _____ my own business.
- 4 **S** If I _____ you, I _____ 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 ¹ **were** bigger and stronger, I ² _____ in the first team. And if I ³ _____ really well, I ⁴ _____ captain. And then if I ⁵ _____ really hard, maybe one day I ⁶ _____ for England and I ⁷ _____ my dad to meet the team. He ⁸ _____ so proud of me!

Jessica's dream



I love my kids, but I'd really like to have more time to myself. If I ⁹ _____ a weekend without kids, I ¹⁰ _____ a long lie-in. If there ¹¹ _____ a good film on, I ¹² _____ to the cinema in the afternoon, with a friend. On Sunday, if the weather ¹³ _____ nice, I ¹⁴ _____ 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 ...