

## Unreal conditional sentences with *if* clauses

### Imaginary situation (simple past)

If I **found** \$40,000,

### Possible consequence (*would, could, or might* + verb)

I **would keep** it.

I **wouldn't return** it.

I **could buy** a new car.

I **might go** to the police.

What **would** you **do if** you **found** \$40,000?

- The clauses in unreal conditional sentences can come in either order. Don't use a comma when the *if* clause comes second: **If** I won the lottery, I'd share the money with my family. / I'd share the money with my family **if** I won the lottery.

Complete the conversation with the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

- 1. A:** If a friend \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) to borrow some money, what \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (say)?

**B:** Well, if I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) any extra money that month, I \_\_\_\_\_ probably \_\_\_\_\_ (give) it to her.
- 2. A:** What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) if someone \_\_\_\_\_ (give) you a million dollars?

**B:** Hmm, I'm not sure. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a lot of nice clothes and jewelry, or I \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) some and \_\_\_\_\_ (give) some away, or I \_\_\_\_\_ (put) it all in the bank.
- 3. A:** If you \_\_\_\_\_ (think) a friend was doing something dangerous, \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (say) something to him, or \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) quiet?

**B:** I \_\_\_\_\_ definitely \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to my friend about it.
- 4. A:** What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) if you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a problem with your boss?

**B:** That's a hard one. If that \_\_\_\_\_ (happen), I \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) to the human resources department about it, or I \_\_\_\_\_ just \_\_\_\_\_ (sit down) with my boss and \_\_\_\_\_ (talk) about the situation.

Complete these conversations. Then compare with a partner.

1. **A:** What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) if you lost your sister's favorite sweater?  
**B:** Of course I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) her a new one.
2. **A:** If you \_\_\_\_\_ (have) three months to travel,  
where \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (go)?  
**B:** Oh, that's easy! I \_\_\_\_\_ (fly) to Europe. I've always wanted to go there.
3. **A:** If your doctor \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) you to get more exercise, which activity  
\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (choose)?  
**B:** I'm not sure, but I think I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) jogging two or three times a week.
4. **A:** \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (break) into your house if you \_\_\_\_\_ (lock)  
yourself out?  
**B:** No way! If I \_\_\_\_\_ (not have) another key, I \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) a neighbor for help.
5. **A:** If your friend \_\_\_\_\_ (want) to marry someone you didn't like,  
\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (say) something?  
**B:** No, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not say) anything. I \_\_\_\_\_ (mind) my own business.
6. **A:** What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (do) if you \_\_\_\_\_ (see) your favorite  
movie star on the street?  
**B:** I \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) shy! I \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) to take a photo with them.