

Level: B2: Upper Intermediate

Skill: Grammar

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Second & Third Conditional

2 Second Conditional

✎ The second conditional is used to imagine present or future situations that are impossible or unlikely in reality.

📌 Examples:

- If we had a garden, we could have a cat.
- If I won a lot of money, I'd buy a big house in the country.
- I wouldn't worry if I were you.

✎ Structure

If/when + past simple >> would + infinitive

✎ Extra

When if is followed by the verb be, it is grammatically correct to say **if I were**, **if he were**, **if she were** and **if it were**.

However, it is also common to hear these structures with was, especially in the he/she form.

- If I were you, I wouldn't mention it.
- If she was prime minister, she would invest more money in schools.
- He would travel more if he was younger.

3 Third Conditional

✎ The third conditional is used to imagine a different past.

We imagine a change in a past situation and the different result of that change.

📌 Examples:

- If I had understood the instructions properly, I would have passed the exam.
- We wouldn't have got lost if my phone hadn't run out of battery.

✎ Structure

if+ past perfect >> would have + past participle

Complete the sentences

1. You _____ money on your electricity bill if you didn't leave the lights on (save)
2. If I _____ the train, I wouldn't have been late for my job interview (not miss)
3. You _____ the exam if you'd bothered to study (not fail)
4. If I _____ to the manager, do you think it would make a difference? (speak)
5. I _____ you some money if you'd asked me (lend)

Create sentences using Second and Third Conditional.