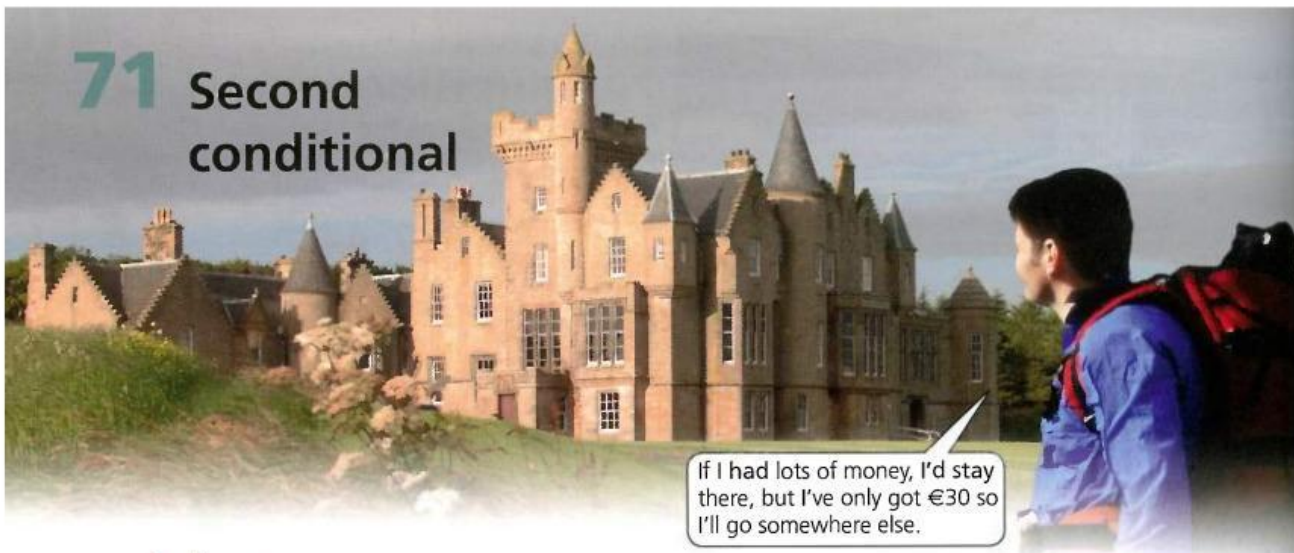


71 Second conditional



1 Form

CONDITION (if ...) past simple	RESULT <i>would (not)</i> + infinitive without to
<i>If I had lots of money,</i>	<i>I'd (I would) stay there.</i>
<i>If I bought a motorbike,</i>	<i>I wouldn't (I would not) take the bus to work.</i>

We use the second conditional to describe a situation that we are imagining in the present or the future.



We use the past tense after *if*:

~~X~~ *If I have lots of money, I'd stay there.* ✓ *If I had lots of money, I'd stay there.*

NATURAL ENGLISH We use the short forms *'d* and *wouldn't* in spoken English and in informal written English.

2 Use

We use the second conditional

- for future situations that probably won't happen:
If I won the race, I'd get a prize.
If Carla got the job, she wouldn't be able to live here anymore.
- for present situations that are not possible:
If David was here, he'd enjoy this film. (He isn't here.)
If I had wings, I'd fly all over the world. (I don't have wings.)
What *would you do* if you *weren't* a student? (You are a student.)

Compare:

FIRST CONDITIONAL	SECOND CONDITIONAL
for something that might happen: <i>If you give me some money, I'll get some ice creams.</i>	for something that probably won't happen or is not possible: <i>If you gave me a million dollars, I'd stop work.</i>

After *if* + *I/he/she/it*, we can use *was* or *were*:

If I was/were the president, I would reduce taxes. *She'd love this place if she was/were here.*

3 if I were/was you ...

We often say *if I were/was you, I'd ...* to give advice:

If I were you, I'd send him a text message. (= I think you should send a text message.)

There's always a big queue so I'd get there early if I were you.

(= I think you should get there early.)

Practice

1 Look at the pictures. Use the words below to complete the sentences.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 0 If I were <i>you</i> , I'd lie down.
(you / I / lie down) | 3 If it was
(sunny / I / take / the baby to the park) |
| 1 I'd buy
(that dress / if / I / be / thinner) | 4 If I had
(some food / I / make / you a snack) |
| 2 If I were
(you / I / put on / some sun cream) | 5 I'd
(buy / some new shoes / if / I / be / you) |

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Complete the conversation with forms of the verbs in brackets ().

- MANDY It would be nicer if this hotel room (0) *had* (have) a view of the sea.
- DAVID I know, but those rooms cost extra. So, what are our plans for the next few days?
- MANDY What about the diving course? It's rather expensive, but ...
- DAVID Mmm. If we (1) (do) that, we wouldn't have any more money!
What about the two-day trip to Granada?
- MANDY We've already paid for all our meals here. If we went on the two-day trip,
we (2) (miss) dinner here. What else can we do?
- DAVID I'm not sure. I (3) (look) in the guidebook if I
(4) (have) it here; but I left it at home. We can ask at reception ...
- MANDY OK, I'll do that. Now what shall I wear for dinner? My new jacket?
- DAVID I (5) (not wear) that if I were you. It's very warm tonight.

3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first.
Use one, two or three words.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 I can't come to the meeting because I'm ill.
If I <i>wasn't ill</i>, I'd come to
the meeting. | 3 I think you should call a doctor.
If, I'd call a doctor. |
| 1 They don't expect to win the match.
They'd be surprised if
the match. | 4 Jack is too fat because he doesn't do
any exercise.
If Jack did some exercise, he
..... fat. |
| 2 You ought to ask for help.
I for help if I were you. | 5 I don't think I'll get a place at Harvard.
I very happy if I got
a place at Harvard. |