6.2 Second Conditional • *wish/if only*

Second Conditional sentences

We use **Second Conditional** sentences to talk about present situations or states which are impossible or very unlikely or about something that could happen in the future but is rather improbable:

*If you **had** an accident, who **would** you **call** first?*

Either of the two clauses can come first in the sentence. When the *if*-clause comes first, we use a comma after *it*.

***If* + Past Simple** (condition),	***would/wouldn't* + infinitive** (effect)
If he cycled to work every day,	*he would feel healthier.*
***would/wouldn't* + infinitive** (effect)	***if* + Past Simple** (condition)
He would feel healthier	*if he cycled to work every day.*

wish/if only

We use ***wish/if only* + Past Simple** to express dissatisfaction with a present situation:

***I wish/If only** people cared about their own health.*

We use ***wish/if only* + *would* + infinitive** to talk about a present situation that we would like to be different, usually when we find it annoying. It usually refers to things we can't change or control:

***I wish/If only** my sister **would hurry up**!*

If only expresses a stronger feeling of regret than the verb ***wish***.

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use the Second Conditional.

1 I _____ (not take up) jogging if I _____ (have) breathing problems.
2 People in my city _____ (do) sport more often if there _____ (be) more sports centres.
3 What _____ (you/do) if your teacher _____ (ask) you to play in the school basketball team?
4 If my grandfather _____ (have) a dog, he _____ (go) for walks more often.
5 If you _____ (see) an accident, _____ (you/be) able to give someone first aid?
6 I _____ (not apply) for this job as a nurse in France if I _____ (not know) the language.
7 If Tiago _____ (have) a pet, I'm sure he _____ (look) after it well.
8 I think I _____ (speak) English much better if I _____ (spend) some time in the UK.
9 You _____ (not feel) tired if you _____ (go) to bed earlier instead of playing video games.
10 If I _____ (win) the lottery, I _____ (travel) around the world.

2 Choose the correct option.

1 My neighbours are very annoying. If only they *stop / 'd stop* their dog chasing after my cat!
2 My sister usually makes wrong decisions. If only she *follows / would follow* my advice!
3 I wish this pain *goes / would go* away.
4 I want to go to school today. I wish I *didn't have / wouldn't have* a temperature.
5 If only I *can / could* go to school by motorcycle!
6 I wish my leg *didn't / doesn't* hurt so much.

3 Choose the correct option, A, B or C.

1 If he ___ allergic to pollen, he would spend more time outdoors.
A wouldn't be B wasn't C isn't
2 I wish my brother ___ get over his laziness.
A would B should C will
3 If only I ___ more time, I would take up yoga.
A have B will have C had
4 I wish my grandma ___ infections so often.
A doesn't catch B wouldn't catch C won't catch
5 They would feel better if they ___ a bit more.
A exercise B would exercise C exercised
6 Martha ___ a professional swimmer if she didn't suffer from asthma.
A will be B would be C was

4 Rewrite the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning as the first. Use the words in capitals.

1 I often feel dizzy and that is why I cannot do much jogging. **IF ONLY**
_____ .
2 Unfortunately, Kate often has headaches. I feel sorry for her. **WISH**
I _____ .
3 I'm not you. But my suggestion is: take up a sport. **IF**
_____ .
4 Paul doesn't practise enough. That is why he has poor results. **WOULD**
If P _____ .
5 My brother doesn't want to see a doctor. It makes me sad. **ONLY**
If _____ .
6 Unfortunately, I don't have many friends. **WISH**
I _____ .
7 Stop complaining and get down to work! **WISH**
I _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS