

Conditional Sentences: type 2 (for unlikely, imaginary situations)

Watch the video:

Read the dialogue:



Tim wants a job in a restaurant. The chef interviews him.

Chef: Now Tim, some more difficult questions. Don't worry, these are not everyday situations. What would you do if there was a fire in the kitchen?

Tim: I would run away if I saw a fire.

Chef: I see. If a waiter shouted at you, would you do anything?

Tim: Yes, I'd throw a cake at him if he didn't stop.

Chef: Hmm. If the shops were closed and you needed some eggs, where would you get some?

Tim: If I wanted some eggs, I'd look for a chicken.

1 Use the second conditional for events and situations which are unlikely, imaginary or impossible in the present and future.

If I didn't like anything on the menu, I would go home.

(Unlikely: there is usually something you like.)

I would run away if I saw a fire.

(Imaginary: Tim is imagining a fire that might happen in the future.)

If I were the chef, I wouldn't give Tim the job.

(Impossible: you are not the chef.)

2 In second conditional sentences, use if + past tense... would + infinitive without to. We can use the short forms 'd for would and wouldn't for would not.

If the customer complained, I'd tell the manager. If Tim worked here, he wouldn't do a good job.

If + subject + past verb + . . . , subject + would / wouldn't + infinitive verb + . . .

or

Subject + would / wouldn't + infinitive verb + . . . if + subject + past verb + . . .

3 The short form answer is Yes, I/you/etc. would or No, /you/etc. would not wouldn't.

A: If you were the chef, would Tim get the job?

B: No, he wouldn't.

A: Would you run outside if there was a fire in the kitchen?

B: Yes, I would.

4 When the if comes at the beginning of the sentence, we need a comma in the middle.

If the food was bad, there wouldn't be many customers.

There wouldn't be many customers if the food was bad.

5 Use might or could in the main clause to indicate that something is possible and not certain.

If you ate Tim's cooking, you might get sick.

You could complain if you didn't like the food.

I could be a chef if I wanted.

6 We often use if + were instead of was after the pronouns I, she, he, it and singular nouns.

If it were cheaper, I'd go to restaurants more often.

7 We often use If I were you ... / would (not)... for advice and suggestions.

If I were you, I'd find another job. I wouldn't eat here if I were you.

Janine is a daydreamer. She imagines what would happen if she won the lottery.

Complete the Conditional Sentences Type II.

1. If I _____ the lottery, I _____ a chance to hit the jackpot.
2. If I _____ the jackpot, I _____ rich.
3. If I _____ rich, my life _____ completely.
4. I _____ a lonely island if I _____ a nice one.
5. If I _____ a lonely island, I _____ a huge house by the beach.
6. I _____ all my friends if I _____ a house by the beach.
7. I _____ my friends up in my yacht if they _____ to spend their holidays on my island.
8. We _____ great parties if my friends _____ to my island.
9. If we _____ to go shopping in a big city, we _____ a helicopter.
10. But if my friends' _____ holidays over, I _____ very lonely on my lonely island.