

9 2nd conditional



Language focus

Use the **2nd conditional** to talk about imagined events or states.

They can either be unlikely (**If I went** into space, **I would visit** the moon) or impossible (**If I were** an animal, **I would be** a lion).

These sentences are formed in the following way:

If + past simple + **would** + infinitive without **to**.

It is possible to say **If I / he / she / it were ...** or **If I / he / she / it was ...**

1 Circle the correct verb form.

- 1 If I **meet** / **met** a famous person, I wouldn't take a photograph of them.
- 2 If I **could** / **can** go back in time, I'd visit Ancient Athens.
- 3 If I could fly, I'd **go** / **going** to the top of Mount Everest.
- 4 If I **had** / **have** time, I'd learn to play chess.
- 5 If we **didn't** have school tomorrow, I'd **went** / **go** snowboarding in the mountains.
- 6 If I **were** rich, I'd **gave** / **give** all my money away.

2 Order the sentences to make a story.

- a If I got really tired, I'd sit in my basket. _____
- b If I fell asleep, I'd dream about chasing cats. _____
- c If I ran around in parks all day, I'd get tired. _____
- d If I woke up from my dream, I'd realise I wasn't a dog. _____
- e If I were a dog, I'd run around in parks. _____
- f If I were an animal, I'd be a dog. **1** _____
- g If I sat in my basket, I'd fall asleep. _____

3 Complete the text with the verbs from the box in the correct form.

not be read can not call paint not make play not need remember have

If, if, if ... Sometimes I think that 'if' is my favourite word. If I **(1)** **played** better, for example, I'd get into the school football team. If I were taller, people **(2)** me 'shorty', and if I had a talent for painting, I **(3)** my dreams. If I **(4)** run fast, I would never miss the bus to school, and if I were good at Maths, I **(5)** to ask Bonnie Mackintosh to help me. If I **(6)** money, I would be able to buy that beautiful piano that's on display in the window of the music shop. If there was more time, I **(7)** all the books I've got beside my bed, and if I had a really good memory, I **(8)** everything I read instead of forgetting it all straightaway. But I suppose there is another way of looking at all of this ... If I **(9)** sentences beginning with 'if' all the time, I **(10)** me.

4 Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

- 1 If I could fly, _____.
- 2 If I could be anything, _____.
- 3 If I had a time machine, _____.
- 4 If I had all the money in the world, _____.
- 5 If I were a dinosaur, _____.