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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, _____.