

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

The second conditional

1 ★ Circle the correct options.

- If I could travel anywhere in the world, ...
 - I'll visit a jungle.
 - I'd visit a jungle.**
 - I visited a jungle.
- I don't know what would happen ...
 - if all the insects will disappear.
 - if all the insects would disappear.
 - if all the insects disappeared.
- What would happen if ...
 - we cut down all the rainforests?
 - we'd cut down all the rainforests?
 - would we cut down all the rainforests?
- If I were you, ...
 - I'd find out more information.
 - I found out more information.
 - I'm finding out more information.
- People wouldn't buy plastic products ...
 - if they have a better alternative.
 - if they had a better alternative.
 - if they'd have a better alternative.

2 ★★ Complete the second conditional sentences using the verbs in brackets.

- If I had a bike, I would use it to go to school. (have / use)
- I out today if it cold. (go / not be)
- If they near the sea, they to the beach a lot. (live / go)
- The waterfall more interesting to look at if it raining. (be / be)
- If we so much meat, we so many rainforests. (not eat / not cut down)
- Houses near the coast in danger if sea levels higher. (be / get)

3 ★★ Complete the blog post with the correct form of the verbs in the box to make second conditional sentences.

be (x3) ~~can~~ check find
not continue not use ~~try~~

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If I ¹ could do anything to help the planet, I ² would try to stop people buying so many things with palm oil in them. If you ³ checked the ingredients in the things you buy, you ⁴ wouldn't use palm oil in many of them – from biscuits to toothpaste. It's a cheap form of oil, and our products ⁵ would be more expensive if companies ⁶ didn't use it.

The oil comes from trees which only grow in hot countries. This means that we need to cut down rainforests to grow them. This is a problem for the animals that live in rainforests, including the orangutan. If we ⁷ cut down to destroy their natural habitat, orangutans wouldn't be endangered. So, if there ⁸ was one useful thing everyone could do to protect the environment, it ⁹ would be to buy things which don't contain palm oil.



4 ★★★ Write second conditional sentences about the situations.

- People use so much plastic. There is so much waste.
If people didn't use so much plastic, there wouldn't be so much waste.
- I haven't got a recycling bin, so I don't recycle my rubbish.
If I had a recycling bin, I would recycle my rubbish.
- People don't know about palm oil, so they buy products which use it.
If people knew about palm oil, they wouldn't buy products which use it.
- We don't use solar power in our country. There isn't enough sunlight.
If there was enough sunlight, we would use solar power in our country.
- Palm oil is cheap. That's why companies use it.
If palm oil wasn't so cheap, companies wouldn't use it.