V

# The second conditional

The second conditional is a grammatical structure used to talk about **hypothetical or unlikely situations in the present or future.** It's often used to discuss things that are not true or likely to happen, and it allows you to imagine different outcomes. The second conditional is formed using the past simple tense in the "if" clause and the modal verb "would" (or "could" or "might") plus the infinitive form of the main verb in the main clause.

## Form: If + Subject + Past Simple, Subject + Would + Verb infinitive

**Usage:**
The second conditional is used to discuss unreal or unlikely situations and their potential outcomes. It's often used to **give advice**, **make requests**, **express preferences**, and **talk about hypothetical scenarios**.

**Examples:**
- If I had more time, I would travel the world. **(unlikely present situation)**
- If I won the lottery, I would buy a new car. **(unlikely future situation)**
- If she studied harder, she would pass the exam. **(advice)**
- If you could help me, I would appreciate it. **(request)**
- If it were warmer, I would go for a swim. **(hypothetical situation)**

**Note:**
- In the "if" clause, you use the past simple tense to talk about a hypothetical or unreal condition. It's important to note that this clause does not always have to begin with "if." Other phrases like **"unless," "provided that,"** and **"as if"** can also be used to introduce the condition.

**Variations:** Sometimes, instead of "**would**," you can use other modals like "**could**" or "**might**" in the main clause to indicate varying degrees of possibility or uncertainty.

**Examples:**
- If he had more money, he could travel the world.
- If she practiced more, she might win the competition.



**Remember!**
**The second conditional is used to discuss hypothetical or unlikely situations and their potential outcomes. It's a useful structure for expressing unreal conditions and imagining different scenarios that might happen if the situation were different.**

# The second conditional exercise 1:

## Choose the correct answer.

**1.** If I _____ **(have)** a million dollars, I would travel the world.
**a)** have
**b)** had
**c)** would have

**2.** If I knew the answer, I _____ **(tell)** you.
**a)** will tell
**b)** told
**c)** would tell

**3.** If he _____ **(can)** drive, he would drive to work.
**a)** could
**b)** can
**c)** could have

**4.** If I were you, I _____ **(not do)** that.
**a)** not do
**b)** didn't do
**c)** wouldn't do

**5.** If I had more free time, I _____ **(take)** up a hobby.
**a)** take
**b)** will take
**c)** would take

**6.** If I were taller, I _____ be able to reach that shelf.
**a)** will
**b)** would
**c)** can

**7.** If I _____ you, I would accept the job offer.
**a)** were
**b)** am
**c)** will be

**8.** If they _____ harder, they would get better exam results.
**a)** study
**b)** studied
**c)** studying

**9.** If we _____ a time machine, we could visit the past.
**a)** will have
**b)** have
**c)** had

**10.** I would visit Japan if I _____ Japanese.
**a)** spoke
**b)** spoken
**c)** will speak

# The second conditional exercise 2:

## Complete the sentences with the second conditional form of the verb in brackets.

**1.** I would buy a mansion if I _____ **(have)** a lot of money.

**2.** If she _____ **(live)** closer, we could meet more often.

**3.** If he _____ **(not be)** allergic to cats, he would adopt one.

**4.** They _____ **(travel)** to the moon if it were possible.

**5.** He would buy that car if he _____ **(can)** afford it.



**6.** If they _____ **(travel)** around Europe, they would explore different cultures.

**7.** If I _____ **(know)** how to ski, I would come skiing with you.

**8**. I would learn how to surf if I _____ **(live)** near the ocean.

**9.** We _____ **(go)** to the concert if we could get tickets.

**10.** He would be healthier if he _____ **(exercise)** regularly.

# The second conditional: answer key

**Grammar practice · B1 Intermediate**

Where two or more answers are given, any of them is correct.

## Exercise 1

1. b) had
2. c) would tell
3. a) could
4. c) wouldn't do
5. c) would take
6. b) would
7. a) were
8. b) studied
9. c) had
10. a) spoke

## Exercise 2

1. had
2. lived
3. were not / weren't / was not / wasn't
4. would travel
5. could
6. travelled
7. knew
8. lived
9. would go
10. exercised

**Corrections to the printed pages**

Explanation: as if does not introduce a condition; unless and provided that do.