

The Second Conditional

The second conditional uses the *Past Simple* after if, then *Future in the Past* ('would' + V₁):

★ Rule: *Future in the Past*.....IF..... *Past Simple*



I **would pass** the exam if I **studied** harder.

(We can use 'were' instead of 'was' with 'I' and 'he/she/it'. This is mostly done in formal writing).

★ It has two uses.

1) First, we can use it to talk about *things in the future that are probably not going to be true*. Maybe I'm imagining some dream for example.

- If I **won** the lottery, I **would buy** a big house.(I probably won't win the lottery)
- If I **met** the Queen of England, I **would say** hello.
- She **would travel** all over the world if she **were** rich.
- She **would pass** the exam if she ever **studied**.(She never studies, so this won't happen)

Second, we can use it to talk about *something in the present which is impossible, because it's not true*.

- If I **had** his number, I **would call** him. (I don't have his number now, so it's impossible for me to call him).
- If I **were** you, I **wouldn't go** out with that man.

How is this different from the *First Conditional*?

This kind of conditional sentence is different from the *First Conditional* because this is a lot more unlikely.

For example (second conditional): If I **had** enough money I **would buy** a house with twenty bedrooms and a swimming pool (I'm probably not going to have this much money, it's just a dream, not very real)

But (first conditional): If I **have** enough money, I'll **buy** some new shoes (It's much more likely that I'll have enough money to buy some shoes)

If I were ...

☆ Note that with the verb **To Be** we use IF + I / HE / SHE / IT + **WERE**

The reason we use WERE instead of WAS is because the sentence is in the *Subjunctive mood*.

- If I **were** not in debt, I **would quit** my job.
- If he **were** taller, he'd **be** accepted into the team.
- She **would still** be correcting my grammar if she **were** still alive.

Practice

Put the verb into the correct tense:

1. If I _____ (be) you, I _____ (get) a new job.
2. If he _____ (be) younger, he _____ (travel) more.
3. If we _____ (not / be) friends, I _____ (be) angry with you.
4. If I _____ (have) enough money, I _____ (buy) a big house.
5. If she _____ (not / be) always so late, she _____ (be) promoted.
6. If we _____ (win) the lottery, we _____ (travel) the world.
7. If you _____ (have) a better job, we _____ (be) able to buy a new car
8. If I _____ (speak) perfect English, I _____ (have) a good job.
9. If we _____ (live) in Mexico, I _____ (speak) Spanish.
10. If she _____ (pass) the exam, she _____ (be) able to enter university.
11. She _____ (be) happier if she _____ (have) more friends.
12. We _____ (buy) a house if we _____ (decide) to stay here.
13. They _____ (have) more money if they _____ (not / buy) so many clothes
14. We _____ (come) to dinner if we _____ (have) time.
15. She _____ (call) him if she _____ (know) his number

- 16.They _____ (go) to Spain on holiday if they _____
(like) hot weather.
- 17.She _____ (pass) the exam if she _____ (study) more.
- 18.I _____ (marry) someone famous if I _____ (be) a movie
star.
- 19.We never _____ (be) late again if we _____ (buy) a new
car.
20. You _____ (lose) weight if you _____ (eat) less.

Translate into English (Traduceți în limba engleză)

1. Dacă aș veni acasă mai devreme, aș pregăti cina.
.....
2. Aș sta acasă dacă ar ninge.
.....
3. Dacă am studia, am trece examenul.
.....
4. Dacă Oliver ar găsi bani nu i-ar păstra.
.....
5. Dacă aș fi în locul tău, nu aș merge la petrecere.
.....
6. Aș cumpăra o mașină nouă dacă aș avea destui bani.
.....
7. Ei ar veni la petrecerea ta de zi de naștere dacă i-ai invita.
.....
8. Nu aș cheltui banii pe așa ceva dacă aș fi în locul tău.
.....
9. Am ieși la o plimbare dacă n-ar ploua.
.....
10. Dacă n-aș ști cine ești, eu te-aș crede.
.....