

USE THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, students will learn and practice the **second conditional** (If I had..., I would...), a structure used to talk about imaginary or unlikely situations in the present or future.

Typical examples:

- If I had more time, I would study another language.
- If I were rich, I would travel around the world.

The goal is not to explore every grammatical nuance in depth, but for students to be able to

- Recognize the structure **if + past simple, would + base verb**.
- Associate it with ideas related to dreams, wishes, and hypothetical decisions.
- Use it in meaningful contexts (money, education, travel, an ideal life, etc.).

“What would you do if you had more time, money, or opportunities?”

The second conditional

Sometimes we like to imagine a different life:

“If I had more money, I would travel.”

“If I lived in another country, I would learn a new language.”

These ideas are not real now. They are imaginary or unreal situations. To talk about these situations in English, we use the second conditional.

USE THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

In this lesson, you will:

- Learn the structure **If + past simple, would + base verb**.
- See many examples about money, time, studies and travel.
- Practice writing your own “what if...?” sentences.
- Talk about your dreams and imaginary situations.

At the end of the lesson, you will be able to say things like:

- If I had more free time, I would...
- If I were rich, I would...
- If I lived in another city, I would...

Question

If you had a million dollars, what would you do?

Possible answer:

- *If I **had** a million dollars, I **would** travel around the world.*
- *If I **had** a million dollars, I **would** buy a house for my family.*
- *If I **had** a million dollars, I **would** start my own business.*

This structure, If I had... I would..., is called the Second Conditional. In this lesson, you will learn how to use it.

VOCABULARY

- **Money and work:**
 - Rich, job, salary, save money, spend money, buy a house, help my family. A lot of money, win the lottery.

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Examples:

- *If I were rich, I would buy a big house.*
- *If I won the lottery, I would help my family.*



- **Travels and places:**

- Travel, country, city, island, beach, mountains, famous places, around the world.

Examples:

- *If I had more money, I would travel around the world.*
- *If I could visit any country, I would go to Japan.*



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- **Education and free time:**

- Study abroad, learn English, learn another language, have more free time, relax, international students, university.

Examples:

- *If I could study abroad, I would choose Canada.*
- *If my English were better, I would apply for a scholarship.*



- **Common actions with “would”:**

- Would travel, would buy, would move, would study, would help, would change, would start, would live.

GRAMMAR: SECOND CONDITIONAL

1. Use

What do we use the Second Conditional for?

- To talk about imaginary or unreal situations in the present or future.
- It is not real now; it is a “what if...?” situation.

If I had more free time (but I don't have it), I would learn Japanese.

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2. Basic structure

If + past simple, would + base verb

Examples:

- *If I had a lot of money, I would travel around the world.*
- *If she studied more, she would pass the exam.*
- *If we lived in Canada, we would see snow every winter.*

The order can also be reversed:

Would + base verb + if + past simple

Example:

- I would travel around the world if I had a lot of money.

3. Past Simple in the *if* Clause

We use the Past Simple, even when we are talking about the present or future:

- If I **had** more time... (but I don't have it)
- If he **lived** in Spain... (but he doesn't)
- If they **studied** more... (but they don't)

4. Negative form and questions

Negative:

- *If I didn't have online classes, I would go out more.*
- *If he didn't live so far, we would see him more often.*

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Contractions with “would”:

- *I would* → **I'd**
- *You would* → **You'd**
- *She would* → **She'd**
- *We would* → **We'd**

Examples:

- *If I had more money, I'd buy a new laptop.*
- *If they were here, they'd help us.*

Questions:

- What would you do if you won the lottery?
- Where would you live if you could choose any country?

CONVERSATION

Saul: If you had a lot of money, what would you do?

Liz: If I had a lot of money, I would travel around the world. I would visit many countries. What about you?

Saul: If I were rich, I would buy a big house near the beach. I would also help my family.

Liz: Nice! If I lived near the beach, I would swim every day and relax more.

Saul: If my English were better, I would study abroad in Canada.



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Liz: That's a great idea. If we didn't have so many classes, we would have more free time to learn languages.

Saul: Yes, and if I had more free time, I would learn Japanese too!

References:

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