

THE SECOND CONDITIONAL

The **second conditional** is a structure used to talk about impossible or imaginary situations.

1

**SLIGHTLY
POSSIBLE, BUT LESS
PROBABLE THAN
FIRST CONDITIONAL
SENTENCES.**

2

UNREAL EVENTS

IF	SIMPLE PAST OR PAST CONTINUOUS	COULD, WOULD + INFINITIVE
<p>If</p> <p>If</p> <p>If</p> <p>If</p> <p>If</p> <p>If</p>	<p>there was a cheap flight, I won the lottery, you cooked for me, you were a doctor, people stayed home during summer, your parents were richer,</p>	<p>I could buy it. I would invest in gold. I would be surprised. you could easily find a job. they would go crazy. you wouldn't have to work so hard.</p>

**Note that an If clause
may come first or
later within a sentence.**

*e.g.: I would immediately sell my house,
if someone wanted to buy it.*

**Meaning of the sentence does not
change no matter how the
clauses are ordered.**

The correct form of the verb '**be**' in the 'if clause' is '**were**'. *However, 'was' is also used in spoken English.*

e.g.: I would ground him
if he **was/were** my son.

The **second conditional** is also used for giving advice.

I would pay
more attention to school, if I
were you.



If I were you, I would stop
telling people what to do.



Exercises

1. If she _____ (be) in a difficult situation, I _____ consider helping her.
2. If electric cars _____ (have) such large batteries, they _____ be easier to drive.
3. I _____ spend so much money on make-up if I _____ you.
4. If I _____ (train) properly, I _____ run a marathon.
5. I would _____ (go) on a diet if I _____ overweight.
6. If I _____ (have) a garden, I _____ grow tomatoes.
7. _____ you be surprised if it _____ (snow) in July?
8. If I _____ (know) his number, I _____ give him a call.
9. You _____ get better results, if you _____ (work) harder.
10. If I _____ (have) more spare time, I _____ write a book.

Answer Key

1. If she **were** (be) in a difficult situation, I **would** consider helping her.
2. If electric cars **didn't have** (have) such large batteries, they **would** be easier to drive.
3. I **wouldn't** spend so much money on make-up if I **were** you.
4. If I **trained** (train) properly, I **could** run a marathon.
5. I would **go** (go) on a diet if I **were** overweight.
6. If I **had** (have) a garden, I **would** grow tomatoes.
7. **Would** you be surprised if it **snowed** (snow) in July?
8. If I **knew** (know) his number, I **could/would** give him a call.
9. You **would** get better results, if you **worked** (work) harder.
10. If I **had** (have) more spare time, I **would** write a book.