# Mini-Lesson: Second and Third Conditionals (B1 Level)

## Thinking Aloud: How to Explain These Conditionals in Simple Words

Conditionals help us talk about imaginary situations — things that are not real now, or didn’t happen in the past.

## Second Conditional: Unreal / Hypothetical in the Present or Future

We use the second conditional to talk about things that are not real now, or things that probably won’t happen, but we want to imagine them.

Structure:  
If + past simple, would + base verb

Example:  
- If I won the lottery, I would buy a house.

This means: I don’t have that money now, but I’m imagining what I would do if I did!

## Third Conditional: Imaginary Past

We use the third conditional to talk about things that didn’t happen in the past, and we imagine a different past result.

Structure:  
If + had + past participle, would have + past participle

Example:  
- If I had studied, I would have passed the exam.

This means: I didn’t study — and I failed. I’m just imagining a different past.

## Example Sentences in Real-Life Situations

Second Conditional:  
- If I were taller, I would play basketball.  
- If she had more free time, she would travel more.  
- What would you do if you found a wallet?

Third Conditional:  
- If they had left earlier, they wouldn’t have missed the train.  
- I would have called you if I had known you were sick.  
- What would you have done if you had failed the test?

## Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Incorrect: If I will see her, I would tell her.  
Correct: If I saw her, I would tell her.  
Tip: Don’t use 'will' or 'would' in the 'if' part.

Incorrect: If I studied, I would have passed.  
Correct: If I had studied, I would have passed.  
Tip: Use third conditional for past situations.

Incorrect: If he had told me, I will help him.  
Correct: If he had told me, I would have helped him.  
Tip: Watch verb forms carefully.

Incorrect: If I would be rich, I would buy a car.  
Correct: If I were rich, I would buy a car.  
Tip: Use 'were' in second conditional, not 'would be'.

## Helpful Reminders

• Use past simple in second conditional, even though you’re talking about the present.  
• In third conditional, both parts are past unreal.  
• You can reverse the order:  
 - I would travel more if I had money.  
 - I would have helped if you had asked.

## Practice Activities

1. Fill in the Blanks (Choose Second or Third Conditional)  
a) If I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) you, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not do) that.  
b) If she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (study), she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the test.  
c) If we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (leave) earlier, we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) on time.  
d) If I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) more time, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (learn) French.  
e) I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (tell) you if I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (know) the answer.

2. Correct the Error  
a) If I would see him, I tell him the truth.  
b) I would have helped you if I would know.  
c) If she had went to the party, she would have met Tom.  
d) What you would do if you won the lottery?  
e) If he had take the train, he would arrive earlier.

3. Sentence Transformation  
Rewrite the sentence using the correct conditional:  
a) I didn’t take my umbrella. I got wet.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
b) I don’t speak Spanish. I can’t work in Spain.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
c) They left late. They missed the bus.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_