# Unit: Second and Third Conditionals (If I won / If I had gone)

## A

We use the second and third conditionals to talk about unreal situations.  
  
Use the \*\*second conditional\*\* to talk about imaginary or unlikely situations in the present or future:  
- If I won the lottery, I would travel the world.  
- She would help you if she had time.  
  
Structure: if + past simple, would + base verb  
- If I had more time, I would learn Spanish.  
  
Use the \*\*third conditional\*\* to talk about things that didn’t happen in the past (imaginary past situations):  
- If I had studied harder, I would have passed the test.  
- They would have arrived earlier if they had caught the train.  
  
Structure: if + past perfect, would have + past participle

## B

Study these situations:  
  
\*\*Second conditional:\*\*  
Paul doesn’t have a car. He walks everywhere.  
If Paul had a car, he would drive to work.  
(But he doesn’t have a car — this is an unreal present.)  
  
\*\*Third conditional:\*\*  
Emily didn’t study for the exam. She failed.  
If Emily had studied, she would have passed the exam.  
(But she didn’t study — this is an unreal past.)

## C

\*\*We often use conditionals with these verbs:\*\*  
would / could / might  
  
Examples:  
- If I were taller, I could play basketball better. (second conditional)  
- If she had seen the sign, she might have stopped. (third conditional)

## D

\*\*Common mistakes:\*\*  
- Don’t mix verb forms: ❌ If I would have seen her, I would talk to her.  
✔ If I had seen her, I would have talked to her.  
✔ If I saw her now, I would talk to her.  
  
- Use the correct past tense in the if-clause:  
✔ If I knew the answer, I would tell you. (not ‘know’)  
✔ If I had known the answer, I would have told you. (not ‘knew’)

## E

Other conditional structures ➜ Unit 99  
Mixed conditionals ➜ Unit 100

# Exercises

## 1.1 Complete the second conditional sentences:

1. If I had a million dollars, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a big house.

2. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (help) you if she knew the answer.

3. If we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live) by the sea, we would go swimming every day.

4. They would travel more if they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) time.

5. If you were older, you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (understand) better.

## 1.2 Complete the third conditional sentences:

1. If I had gone to bed earlier, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / be) so tired.

2. She would have passed the exam if she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (study) more.

3. If we had left on time, we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (catch) the bus.

4. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) earlier if they hadn’t missed the train.

5. If he had worked harder, he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (get) the promotion.

## 1.3 Write your own sentences:

1. Write a second conditional sentence about winning a holiday.  
2. Write a third conditional sentence about forgetting something important.  
3. Write a second conditional sentence about speaking another language.  
4. Write a third conditional sentence about missing a train.