

GRAMMAR

Using the second conditional for suggestions

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1122G

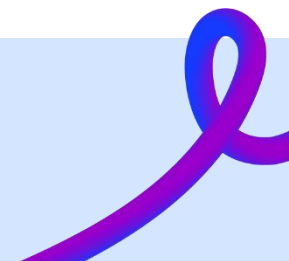
LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can use the second conditional to make suggestions.
- I can suggest ways of making learning a language easier.



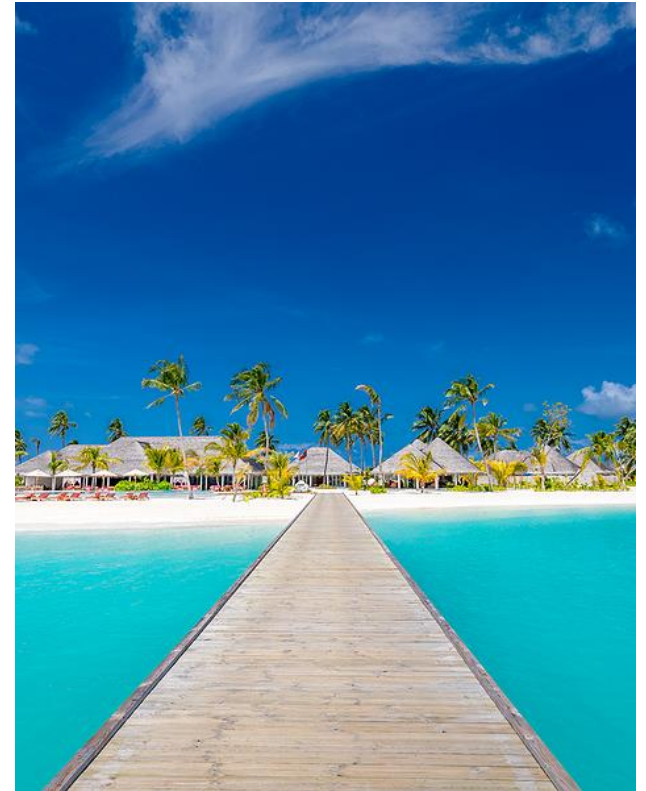


Warm-up

1. **Read** the scenario with a partner and **discuss** your ideas in the breakout room.
2. **Share** your best idea with the group afterwards.

**Your best friend is on holiday,
on an island with no internet.
They meet the most beautiful
person they've ever seen, but
there's one problem...**

**...they don't speak the same
language! They both want to
get to know each other. What
could they do?**



How's your German?

Read the conversation between Cecelia and Ryan and **answer** the questions below.

Cecelia: You must be fluent in German by now.

Ryan: I wish!

Cecelia: You know the basics, right? You've been living in Berlin for a year!

Ryan: I want to improve, but I've been so busy at work.

Cecelia: Hmm, that's a shame. If you took an intensive German course, you could improve your German skills quickly.

Ryan: I definitely would.

Cecelia: And if you lived with German-speaking flatmates, you could practise a lot more. I'm sure you could also improve your German if you tried to speak more often!



1. What are Cecelia and Ryan talking about?
2. What does Cecelia suggest Ryan do?

Reviewing the second conditional

Read Cecelia's suggestion below and answer the questions in the blue boxes.

If you took an intensive German course, **you could improve** your German skills quickly.

- What would be possible if Ryan took an intensive German course?
- Why doesn't Cecelia say: *'If you take an intensive German course, you can improve your German skills quickly?'*

- Take a look at the **if-clause** (blue highlight). It uses the _____ simple tense.
- Take a look at the **result-clause** (purple highlight). What modal verb is used?
- The second conditional shows we are **less certain** of a situation than one described using the first conditional.

Reviewing the second conditional

Complete the rules in the box to review the second conditional.

If you took an intensive German course,
you could improve your German skills quickly.

You could improve your German
if you tried to speak more often!

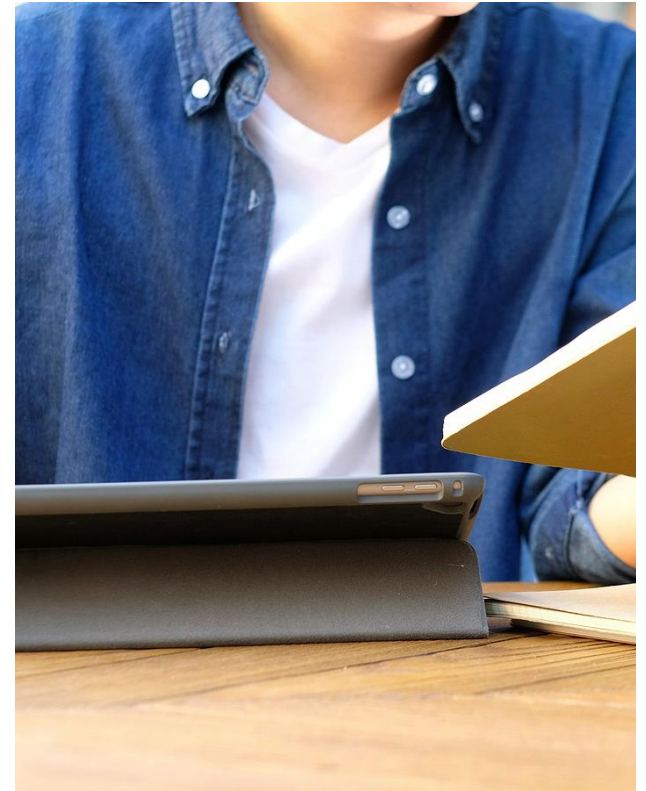
- The form of the **result-clause** (purple highlight) is: _____ + bare infinitive.
- We can **change the order** of the clauses. When we do this, **we remove the comma**.
- We often use the second conditional to talk about **choices** and **future plans**.



Discuss

**What else could Ryan
do to improve his
German?**

**Share your ideas with the rest
of the class!**



Making suggestions with the second conditional

Answer the questions about the examples. Then, **complete** the rules on the right.

If you lived with German-speaking flatmates,
you would practise a lot more.

If you lived with German-speaking flatmates,
you could practise a lot more.

- In which sentence does Cecelia sound **more certain** that her suggestion will help Ryan with his German?
- Why did you choose this sentence?

- We use _____ when we are more certain that what we are suggesting will make a difference.
- We use _____ when we are less certain that what we are suggesting will make a difference.



Sort into the correct category

Categorise each of the suggestions below. **Explain** your answer.

- 1 If I spoke to a native-English speaker regularly, I could improve my English.
- 2 If I practised my German every day, I would feel more confident in meetings.
- 3 If I watched TV in a foreign language, I could learn more about the culture.
- 4 I would learn a language faster if I moved to a city where it was spoken.
- 5 If I spent a week in Japan, I could learn a few phrases in Japanese.
- 6 If I listened to a podcast in French every day, I would improve my listening skills.

More certain of the result

Less certain of the result

Practise making suggestions

1. **Imagine** you're talking to a friend who wants to improve their English.
2. **Look at** some of the ideas in the boxes to help you.
3. **Make some suggestions** using the second conditional with *could* or *would*.



Take a language course

Find a language tandem partner

Watch TV series or movies

Choose a question

Ask another person in your group. Does everyone agree with you or not?

Would it be better if we all spoke the same language or not?



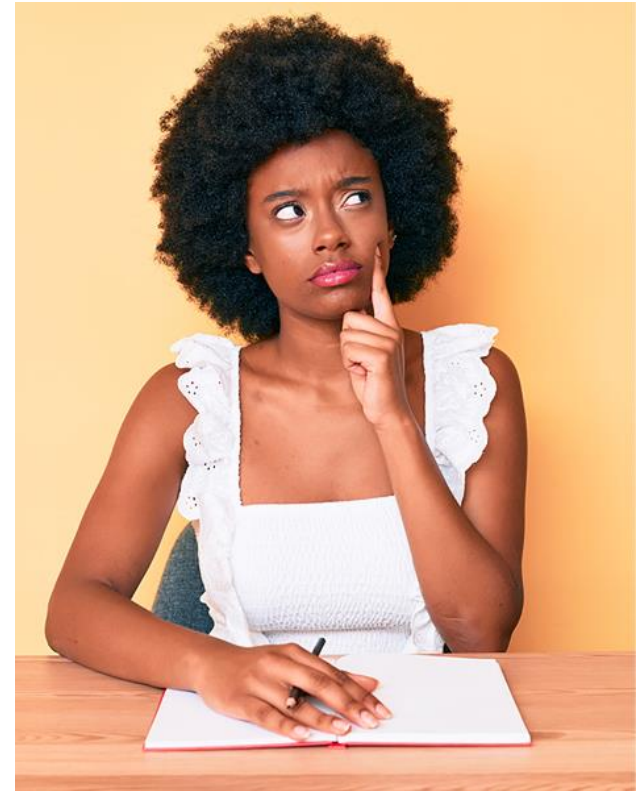
What could happen if we all spoke the same language?


Discuss

Share your ideas as a group. Try to **use** a second conditional sentence!

What are some of the craziest suggestions you've ever heard for learning a language?

"If you slept with a dictionary under your pillow at night, you would learn all the new vocabulary in your sleep!"





End of the lesson

Idiom

*My cousin is wonderful. She has **a heart of gold**.*

Meaning: to be a generous, kind and caring person



Additional practice



Talking about global languages

Build sentences using the prompts below.

1 approximately – 76 million – native French speakers – world



2 English – global – lingua franca



3 Spanish – Portuguese – spoken – throughout – South America

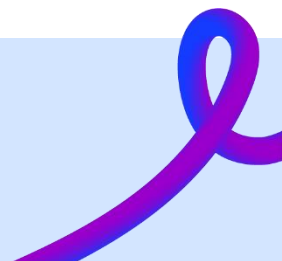


4 Spanish – spoken – 580 million people – around – world



5 People – speak – Hindi – north, west and south – India







Forming the second conditional

Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs in the red box.

- 1 If I _____ my speaking skills every day, my Spanish _____ much more quickly.
- 2 If I could _____ at any English university, I _____ Oxford or Cambridge.
- 3 If I could _____ a native speaker of any language, I _____ Mandarin.
- 4 I _____ around Europe if I _____ so much.
- 5 If I could _____ to any part of the world, it _____ the Caribbean.

choose x2
be x2
move
travel
(not) work
study
practise
improve



What would you do if you could...?

Answer each of the three questions below with second conditional sentences using **could**.

1



What language would you choose if you could be fluent in any?

If I could be fluent in any language, I would...

2



What job would you do if you could do anything?

If I could do any job, I would...

3



What would you change about your language skills if you had more free time?

If I could change anything about my language skills, I would...



Language learning goals

Answer the three questions below using the vocabulary in the red box.

1



If you could go back to school, what languages would you learn and why?

If I could go back to school, I would...

2



If you could give a young person some advice about what language they should learn, what would you tell them and why?

If you chose to learn English, you could...

3



If you couldn't learn English with Lingoda, what language would you chose instead and why?

- lingua franca
- consider
- native speakers
- it allows me to...
- throughout
- mainly
- part of the world
- the opportunity to...



Answer key

P.4: 1. Ryan's German knowledge 2. She suggests he take an intensive German course, live with German flatmates, and speak more in German.

P.5: past simple tense; could

P.6: modal verb

P.8: She sounds more convinced in the first sentence; would (more certain); could (less certain)

P.9: More certain: 2, 4, 6; Less certain: 1, 3, 5

P.16:

1. There are approximately 76 million native French speakers in/around the world. 2. English is the global lingua franca. 3. Spanish and Portuguese are spoken throughout South America 4. Spanish is spoken by 580 million people around the world. 5. People speak Hindi in the north, west and south of India.

P.17:

1. practised; would improve 2. study; would choose 3. be; choose 4. would travel; didn't work 5. move; would be



Summary

2nd conditional using *could*

- We can also form the second conditional using **could + infinitive** in the result clause, to make suggestions:
- *If you took some time off work, you **could come** to visit me!*



Vocabulary

native speaker



Notes

