

GRAMMAR

Second and third conditionals

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2022G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can form the second and third conditionals and use them accurately in a sentence.
- I can talk about decisions I've made in my life using the second and third conditionals.



Warm-up



If everyone spoke the same language, the world would be a less interesting place.

Do you agree or disagree?

Share your answer in breakout rooms or together as a class!



Review the second conditional

1. **Read** the sentences.
2. Then **review** the information in the blue boxes below.

If **I had** more free time, **I would learn** a new language.

If **I were** the CEO, **I would hire** more women.

I could take the bus to work instead if **I sold** my car.

- We use the second conditional to talk about:
 - Impossible situations in the present and unlikely things in the future
 - situations we do not expect to happen
 - imagined situations that are different from the real situation

- If + **subject** + **past simple**, **subject** + **would** + **bare infinitive**.
- You can use other modal verbs in the second conditional, like **could** and **might**.
 - They allow you to express ability and possibility.



Multiple choice

Choose the best option to complete the sentences.

- 1 If I lived in London, I _____ to see plays in the West End all the time.
- a. will go b. would go c. go d. goes
- 2 If she _____ out of the city, she would have to take the train to work every day.
- a. move b. moved c. would move d. moving
- 3 If we employed another intern, we _____ move you to another room, as there wouldn't be enough space here.
- a. won't b. wouldn't c. would have to d. will have to
- 4 If I _____ the boss, people in my team would be able to arrive at work whenever they liked.
- a. became b. become c. would become d. would be



Complete the sentences

1. **Complete** the sentences.
2. Add **would**.

1 If the soup wasn't so salty, _____ (**it/taste**) better.

2 _____ (**I/not/buy**) that coat if I were you.

3 If I had the choice, _____ (**I/live**) in another city.

4 If I were you, _____ (**I/not/go**) to bed so late.

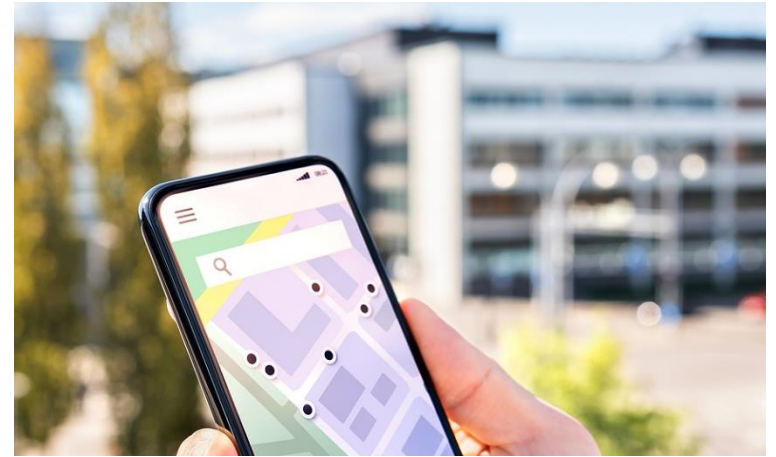
5 _____ (**I/make**) a lot of changes if I was the manager of the company.



Over to you!

Answer **one** of the questions below.

Would you live in another city if you had the choice? Why or why not?



What changes (if any) would you make if you were in charge of your company?



What would you do?

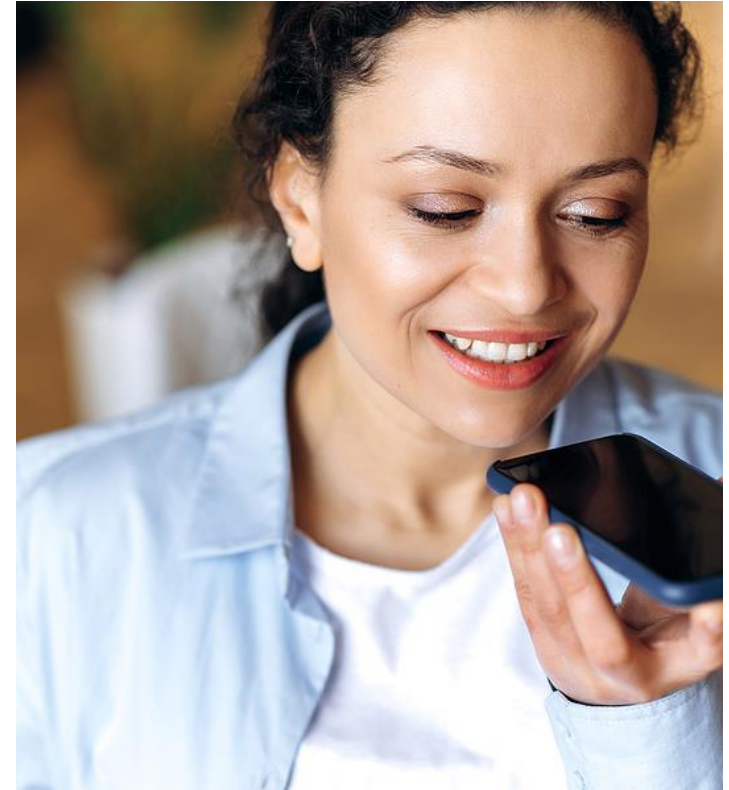
1. **Read** the scenarios below.
2. **Discuss** what you would do.

1 If you didn't get along with one of your colleagues, what would you do?

2 What would you do if you noticed one of your colleagues was on social media all the time at work?

3 If you couldn't find the solution to a problem, what would you do?

4 If someone was rude to you, what would you do?



The third conditional

1. **Read** the sentences.
2. Then **review** the information in the blue box below.

If **I had listened** in the meeting, **I would have known** what to do.

If **he had wanted** a lift, **he would have told** me.

- The third conditional describes an imagined past event.
- If + **subject** + **past perfect**, **subject** + **would** + **have** + **past participle**.





The third conditional

We often use the **third conditional** when we **regret** something that didn't happen.

We **wish** the action or the event in the main clause had happened.

If clause	Main clause	Meaning
If I had seen you,	I would have said hello.	<i>But I didn't see you, so I couldn't say hello.</i>
If I hadn't been tired,	I could have gone to the party.	<i>But I was too tired, so I didn't go (but I wish I had gone).</i>
If he had taken the job,	he might have been very happy.	<i>But he didn't take the job, so he doesn't feel happy.</i>



If only I had seen you,
I would have said
hello.

We can use **if only** in the second and third conditional.

Can you come up with a sentence using **if only** in the second conditional?

Complete the sentences.

Ellen is reflecting on her experience doing a semester as an exchange student in the United States.

Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb.

- 1 If I _____ (not hear) about the student exchange programme from a friend, I would have never applied.
- 2 I went to a big university in Texas. There were over 40,000 students. If I had not lived in an apartment with six other girls, I _____ (not make) any friends.
- 3 They were great housemates. If they had not taken me to parties and invited me to their homes, I _____ (have) a very different experience.
- 4 I also wanted to travel throughout the States, but I didn't get a chance to travel much. If I had not been so busy at university, I _____ (travel) more.
- 5 Of course, Texas is big. Even if I _____ (drive) for eight hours, I would have still been in Texas!



What really happened?

1. **Read** each sentences.
2. **Describe** what really happened.

1 If I had not gone to Australia, I would never have learnt how to surf.



But I did go to Australia, and I learned how to surf.

2 If he had worked harder on that project, he would have got a promotion.



3 If she had not travelled to California, she wouldn't have seen the giant redwoods.



4 If you hadn't left our dog at home alone, he wouldn't have chewed up my shoes.



5 If you had read the book, you might have enjoyed the film more.



6 If I hadn't gone out with my friends that night, I wouldn't have met my wife.



What would you have done?

1. **Read** about Jeremy and Leah's dilemmas.
2. What do you think they decided to do?
3. What would have you done?



Jeremy

At the store, my total came to \$10. I gave the cashier \$20 but he gave me \$100 in change. He thought he'd given me a \$10 note. I needed money badly, and it was his mistake. I knew he would have to pay the missing cash at the end of his shift. In the end, I decided to...



Leah

The night before a big exam, a classmate sent me an email with all the answers. I asked myself what I should do—ignore the email or ask him why he'd sent it and look at all the answers? I really wanted to take the exam without cheating, but I also needed to do well on the exam. I slept on it, and in the morning, I knew what to do. I decided to...



Decisions (1/2)

Complete the steps under **1**.

1



Think of decisions
you've made in your
life.

Look at the topics on
the right for ideas.

Take **2-3** minutes to
make notes about **two**
situations.

a subject you
chose to study
at school

a job you
accepted or
turned down

a trip you took
or almost took

an activity you
took part in or
avoided

a relationship
you got into,
or out of

a school or
university you
chose to
attend



Decisions 2/2

Complete the steps under 2.



Think of decisions
you've made.

Look at the topics on
the right for ideas.

Take 2-3 minutes to
make notes about
two situations.

Work with a partner.

Ask and answer
questions 1-5 about
the situations.

1 Where did it happen?

2 What happened leading up to the
situation?

3 How did you feel, and what did
you do?

4 What else could you have done?

5 Would you do the same thing
again?



End of the lesson

Idiom

Back to square one.

Meaning: to start something over again because a previous attempt failed

Example: The results of the study came back yesterday. Unfortunately, it looks like we're back to square one.



Additional practice



What really happened?

1. **Read** each sentences.
2. **Describe** what really happened.

1 If I had not gone to Germany, I would never have met my wife.



But I did go to Germany, and I did meet my wife!

2 If he had studied harder for the exam, he would have passed the class.



3 If she had not travelled to Rome, she wouldn't have seen the Colosseum.



4 If you had not lost your keys, you wouldn't have been stuck outside in the rain.



5 If you had watched the movie, you would have understood what we were talking about.



6 If I hadn't gone out with my friends that night, I wouldn't have lost my wallet.





Complete the sentences.

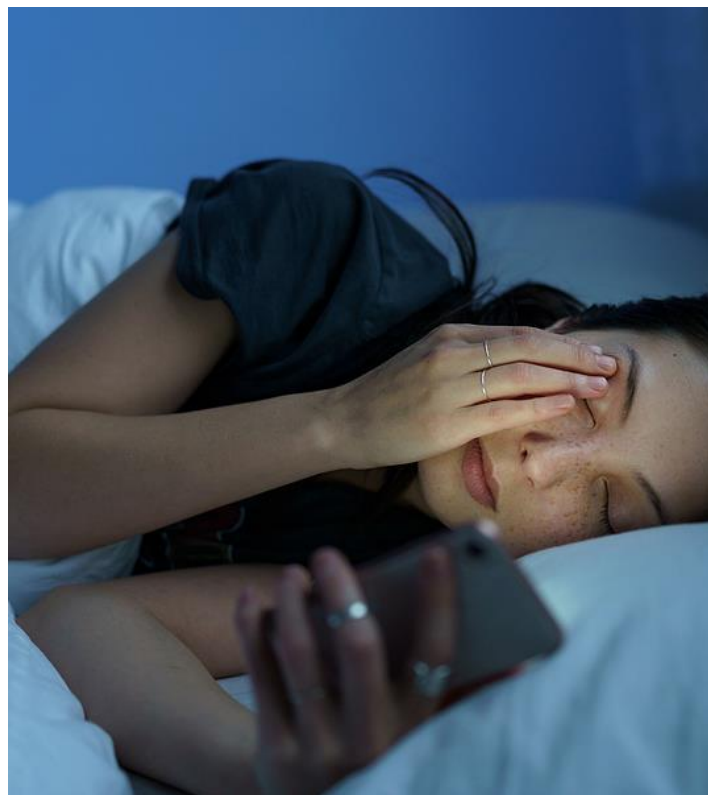
Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1 If I had woken up earlier, I...

2 If I hadn't _____, I...

3 If I had slept in today, I...

4 If I'd travelled to _____, I...





Write a sentence with *if*

1 We'd like to go on holiday, but we can't afford it.



*We would go on holiday **if** we could afford it.*

2 It would be nice to take a walk outside, but it's raining.



3 She would drive to the city, but she doesn't have a car.



4 He doesn't see her very often because she lives far away.



5 I'd like to make a lot of changes, but I'm not the manager of this company.



6 I'd read all day, but I don't have any time.





Discuss

Answer the question below.

What would you do if you found \$40,000 in cash hidden inside a used sofa that you've just bought?

Share your answer with the rest of the class!





Answer key

P.5: 1.) b 2.) b 3.) c 4.) a

P.6:

- 1.) If the soup wasn't so salty, it would taste better.
- 2.) I wouldn't buy that coat if I were you.
- 3.) If I had the choice, I would live in another city.
- 4.) If I were you, I wouldn't go to bed so late.
- 5.) I would make a lot of changes if I was the manager of the company.

P.12:

- 1.) hadn't heard
- 2.) wouldn't have made
- 3.) would have had
- 4.) would have travelled
- 5.) had driven

P.13:

- 2.) But he didn't work hard enough on the project, so he didn't get a promotion.
- 3.) But she did travel to California, and she saw the giant redwoods.
- 4.) But you did leave the dog alone at home, and he chewed up my shoes.
- 5.) But you didn't read the book, so you didn't enjoy the film more.
- 6.) But I did go out with my friends that night, and I met my wife.



Answer key



P.20:

- 2.) But he didn't study hard enough for the exam, and he didn't pass the class.
- 3.) But she did travel to Rome, and she saw the Colosseum.
- 4.) But you did lose your keys, and you were stuck outside in the rain.
- 5.) But you didn't watch the movie, so you didn't understand what we were talking about.
- 6.) But I did go out with my friends that night, and I lost my wallet.

P.22:

- 2.) If it wasn't raining outside, I would take a walk outside.
- 3.) If she had a car, she would drive to the city.
- 4.) If she didn't live far away, he would see her more often.
- 5.) If I were the manager of this company, I would make a lot of changes.
- 6.) If I had more time, I would read all day.



Summary

Reviewing the second conditional

- We use the second conditional to talk about **possible situations** and their **probable results**, situations we **do not expect** to happen and **imagined situations** that are different from the real situation.
- *If I had more free time, I would learn a new language.*

More on the second conditional

- **If + subject + past simple, subject + would + bare infinitive.**
- You can use other modal verbs in the second conditional, like **could** and **might**. They allow you to express **ability** and **possibility**.
- *If I sold my car, I could take the bus to work instead.*

Reviewing the third conditional

- The third conditional describes an imagined past event.
- **If + subject + past perfect, subject + would + have + past participle.**
- *If I had listened in the meeting, I would have known what to do;*

More on the third conditional

- We often use the third conditional when we **regret** something that **didn't happen**. We **wish** the action or the event in the main clause had happened, e.g. *If I had seen you, I would have said hello.*
- We can use **if only** in the third conditional, e.g. *If only I had seen you, I would have said hello.*



Vocabulary

CEO

intern

to get along with

to regret

if only

