Second Conditional

WHEN TO USE, HOW TO USE, EXAMPLES

When to use the second conditional

For unlikely or impossible situations and their results.

To imagine / wish for a different present and a different future.

To give advice.

- The time frame is present or any time.
- The situation is impossible or very unlikely.

Second conditional format

If clause (condition)

Main clause (result)

if + simple past

present (continuous) conditional

(If this happened

this would happen / be happening)

The order is not fixed, so you can swap the condition and result.

You might have to pay attention to pronouns.

Second conditional examples

- 1. Unlikely or impossible situations, or a different present / future.
- ➤ If it wasn't raining, we would be outside playing.
- ➤ We would be outside playing if it wasn't raining.
- ►I would give everyone tea if I was the president.
- ► If I was the president, I would give everyone tea.
- > If I had more time, I would do more sport.
- I would do more sport if I had more time.

Second conditional examples

- 2. Giving advice.
- ► If I were you, I would leave your job.
- ►I would leave your job if I were you.
- ►I would lose some weight if I were you.
- ➤ If I were you, I would lose some weight.
- ➤ If I were you, I would change your hairdresser.
- ►I would change your hairdresser if I were you.