

Second Conditional Exercises

Level: B1

Imaginary situations with if

Use the second conditional for an unreal or unlikely situation now or in the future: *If I had more time, I would learn guitar.* The past form shows distance from reality, not past time.

Second conditional: *If* + past simple, *would* + base verb: *If I lived near the sea, I would swim every day.*

Be: *Were* is common with every subject in an imaginary if-clause: *If I were you, I would ask for help.*

Zero review: For facts, use present + present: *If you heat ice, it melts.*

First review: For a real future possibility, use present + *will*: *If it rains tomorrow, we will stay inside.*

Avoid: Do not put *would* in the if-clause: say *If I had time*, not *If I would have time*.

Exercise 1: Choose the conditional

Choose the form that matches the meaning: fact, real possibility or imaginary situation.

1. If I had a car, I ___ to work.
a) would drive b) will drive c) drive
2. If it rains tomorrow, we ___ at home.
a) would stay b) will stay c) stay
3. If you heat ice, it _____.
a) would melt b) will melt c) melts
4. If Maya ___ more free time, she would join the club.
a) has b) had c) would have
5. If I were you, I ___ that job.
a) would take b) will take c) take
6. If the shop ___ open tonight, we will buy some milk.
a) was b) is c) would be

Exercise 2: Complete the imaginary sentences

Write the correct past form or *would* form of the verb in brackets. Use full forms, not contractions.

7. If I ___ more money, I would buy a bike. (have)
8. She ___ more if she had a quiet room. (study — use would)
9. If we ___ closer, we would visit you often. (live)
10. If he were taller, he ___ the top shelf. (reach — use could)
11. They ___ the train if the station were nearer. (take — use would)

12. If I ___ you, I would tell the truth. (be — imaginary advice)

Exercise 3: Rewrite the imaginary situation

Write one full second conditional sentence. Keep the idea and use the given start.

13. I do not have a bike, so I walk to work. Use ride in the result.

If I _____

14. She is not here, so she cannot help us.

If she _____

15. The tickets are expensive, so we do not travel often. Use cheaper and more often.

If the tickets _____

16. I do not know his number, so I cannot call him. Use could call in the result.

If I _____

17. It is cold, so we do not eat outside.

If it _____

18. We live too far from school to walk there, so we take the bus. Use could walk there.

If we _____

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the conditional

1. a) would drive
2. b) will stay
3. c) melts
4. b) had
5. a) would take
6. b) is

Exercise 2: Complete the imaginary sentences

7. had
8. would study
9. lived
10. could reach
11. would take
12. were

Exercise 3: Rewrite the imaginary situation

13. If I had a bike, I would ride to work.
14. If she were here, she could help us.
15. If the tickets were cheaper, we would travel more often.
16. If I knew his number, I could call him.
17. If it were warmer, we would eat outside.
18. If we lived near school, we could walk there.