

SECOND CONDITIONALS

We use the second conditional to talk about imagined situations or things that are unlikely or impossible.

Like first conditional sentences, second conditional sentences have two parts:

- 1 an *if*-clause that describes an imaginary action or situation, generally something that is unlikely or impossible (now or in the future).
- 2 a result clause that describes the possible outcome or result of that imaginary or unlikely action or situation.

If he was on holiday now, he'd be lying on the beach. (= He isn't on holiday now.)

They'd celebrate if they won the prize. (= We don't know who will win the prize.)

The *if*-clause has a past tense verb. The result clause has *would* / *wouldn't* + infinitive (without *to*).

We can also use *might* when the imagined outcome is less certain.

An unreal or imaginary situation	Possible result of an unreal or imaginary situation	
<i>if</i> + past simple	<i>would</i>	+ infinitive (without <i>to</i>)
	<i>might</i>	

With the verb *be*, we can use either *was* or *were* after *If I* but *was* is more common.

If I were rich, I'd travel the world.

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Complete the second conditional sentences. Choose one of the verbs in brackets for the *if*-clause and one for the result clause.

➔ He would leave his job if he won a lot of money. (win, leave)

- 1 I _____ really happy if all the countries in the world _____ friends. (be, be)
- 2 If I _____ English fluently, I _____ around the world teaching it. (travel, speak)
- 3 If I _____ someone famous, I _____ very excited. (be, see)
- 4 We _____ furious if they _____ our local park into a car park. (be, make)
- 5 If I _____ a wallet full of money in the street, I _____ it to the police. (take, find)
- 6 If I _____ time, I _____ the song I wrote for my first boyfriend. (record, have)

- 7 I _____ surprised if cars _____ in 30 years.
(not exist, not be)
- 8 This _____ a better hotel if it _____ a pool.
(be, have)
- 9 If they _____ camping, they _____ cheaper holidays. (have, like)
- 10 If she _____ a school teacher, she _____ her holiday in the low season. (take, be)

USED TO

We use *used to* + infinitive (without *to*) to talk about past habits and routines or states (things that happened regularly or more than once, or that were true for a long period of time).

*When I lived in London, I **used to hate** travelling by underground.*

We can also use the past simple to talk about past habits and states, but we can only use the past simple to talk about past actions that only happened once. We don't use *used to* for past actions that only happened once.

*When I lived in London, I **hated** travelling by underground. I remember one time when I **felt** sick and **couldn't** get out.*

We form the negative and questions with *did / didn't* and *use to*.

*I **didn't use to travel** on the underground very often.*

*Did you **use to go** by bus instead?*

For each verb 1–10, write *used to* + infinitive where possible. If the verb can only be in the past simple, write a (✓) in the space.

When I **was** a child, I **lived** in Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. I remember eating lots of great food. We had fresh fruit, vegetables and fish, although we never **ate** meat. I **spent** hours on my local beach, playing with friends. We **explored** lots of other beaches too. But once, we **didn't tell** our parents. They **got** worried and **called** the police! I **went** back to Mauritius last year for a holiday. I **didn't think** I'd remember so much about my childhood there. It **brought** back many happy memories.

➔ ✓ _____

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____
- 7 _____
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____

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- ➡ ✓ _____
- 1 used to live _____
- 2 used to eat _____
- 3 used to spend _____
- 4 used to explore _____
- 5 ✓ _____
- 6 ✓ _____
- 7 ✓ _____
- 8 ✓ _____
- 9 ✓ _____
- 10 ✓ _____