

Activity Type

Grammar Exercises: matching, unscrambling, gap-fill, sentence completion

Speaking Activity: asking and answering questions from prompts, freer practice (pair work)

Focus

Second conditional

Aim

To learn and practice how to form and use the second conditional tense.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

30 minutes

Introduction

This second conditional worksheet helps students learn and practice how to form and use the second conditional tense.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Students begin by reading how the second conditional is constructed and used.

Students then match second conditional sentence halves together.

Exercise A - Answer key

1. c 2. h 3. e 4. g 5. f 6. b 7. d 8. a 9. j 10. i

Next, students put words in the correct order to make second conditional sentences, adding a comma where appropriate.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. If I liked vegetables, I would become a vegetarian.
2. They would enjoy school more if the lessons were more fun.
3. Our cat wouldn't be so fat if we didn't feed it so much.
4. If I got another pet, I would get a parrot.

Students then move on to complete sentences in the second conditional using two verbs from a box in each sentence.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. drank / would sleep | 5. would get / left |
| 2. would go / was | 6. found / would take |
| 3. would work / earned | 7. gave up / would feel |
| 4. would marry / bought | 8. would use / took |

After that, students complete second conditional sentences with their own ideas.

In the last exercise, students think of an animal without telling anyone what it is. Students then imagine they were that animal and answer questions using the second conditional.

Finally, in pairs, students ask the second conditional questions to their partner and try to guess what animal they are.

As an extension, students answer the questions in front of the class for others to guess.

We use the second conditional to talk about unreal situations in the present or future.

Second conditional sentences are made up of two clauses, an *if + past simple* clause, and a *would / wouldn't + infinitive* clause.

A second conditional sentence can begin with either clause, but if it begins with an *if* clause, you need to separate the two clauses with a comma.

Examples: If I won the lottery, I would buy a Ferrari.

I would buy a Ferrari if I won the lottery.



A. Match the second conditional sentence halves together.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1. If I went to South America, | a. if he knew how to swim. |
| 2. Mary would look better | b. if they didn't work in the city. |
| 3. We would save time | c. I would visit Peru. |
| 4. If Jim could buy a new car, | d. if I liked Mexican food. |
| 5. We wouldn't be so bored | e. if we took a taxi. |
| 6. They would move to the countryside | f. if we had a television. |
| 7. I would go to the restaurant with you | g. he would get a Porsche. |
| 8. Tim would go surfing | h. if she wore less make-up. |
| 9. If she got new glasses, | i. if you washed it |
| 10. The car would look better | j. she would see more clearly. |

B. Put the words in the correct order to make second conditional sentences. Remember to add a comma when the sentence begins with an *if* clause.

- vegetarian / become / I / If / liked / vegetables / would / a / I
.....
- school / would / more / if / They / lessons / the / fun / enjoy / were / more
.....
- be / Our / wouldn't / fat / we / so / didn't / it / much / cat / so / if / feed
.....
- got / If / another / a / pet / I / get / would / parrot / I
.....

C. Complete the sentences in the second conditional using two verbs from the box in each sentence.

go	earn	drink	be	marry	work	sleep	use
give up		take (x2)	find	get	buy	leave	feel

- If you less coffee, you better at night.
- We to the beach if the weather better.
- I harder in my job if I more money.
- I him if he me a diamond ring.
- You to school on time if you home earlier.
- If I a wallet in the street, I it to the police.
- If you smoking, you better.
- We less water if we shorter showers.

D. Complete the second conditional sentences with your own ideas.

- Learning English would be easier
- If I could live in another country
- My life would be easier if
- If I spoke English perfectly

E. Now, think of an animal without telling anyone. Imagine you were that animal and answer the questions using the second conditional. Then, ask the questions to a partner and try to guess what animal they are.

- If you were this animal, where would you live?
.....
- What would you eat if you were this animal?
.....
- If you were this animal, what would you do for fun?
.....
- What would you do if you saw an enemy?
.....