

Conditionals - Type 2

Introduction

1) Conditionals are sentences with two clauses – a main clause and an *if* clause. Conditionals state that the action in the main clause can only take place if a certain condition in the *if* clause is fulfilled.

If we don't hurry, we will be late!

2) There are five main types of conditionals in English.

Conditionals Type 2 or second conditionals are used to describe hypothetical, unlikely, or impossible situations. These sentences are not based on facts, thus we can refer to any time.

If Peter cleaned his place, he would let us come in.

Use the past simple tense in the *if* clause and *would + the base form of the verb* in the main clause. Note that the order of the main and *if* clauses is not fixed. Although when the *if* clause precedes the main one, use a comma.

IF clause	MAIN clause
If + past simple	would + V
<i>If I won 1 million dollars,</i>	<i>I would give it to charity.</i>
<i>If you found a formal black dress,</i>	<i>it would look perfect on you.</i>

Note that if we use the verb *to be* in the *if* clause, the form *were* is used even with the 1st and 3rd person. We often use '*If I were you...*' to express our opinion or to give advice.

If I were a chef, I would work at some Italian restaurant.

If I were you, I wouldn't take that job.

Compare the first conditional and the second conditional:

*(It is December right now.) If it snows today, we will definitely make a snowman.
(It is May right now.) If it snowed today, we would be surprised.*

Short Story Dialogue

- *If I knew what to do, it would help me a lot.*
- *If I were you, I would just listen to my guts.*
- *If I listened to my inner voice, I would certainly make a stupid decision in this situation.*

*I make stupid decisions **when** I'm stressed.*

- *At least it would be your own decision.*

Independent Practice - Conditionals - Type 2

1) Match the sentences.

a. I don't have an umbrella, so if it rained,	1. we would buy a bigger house.
b. If I won a lottery,	2. if you saw a kitten at your entrance door?
c. If we had more money,	3. I would get wet.
d. If I were you,	4. I would buy these shoes.
e. What would you do	5. if he worked out more.
f. If they didn't like each other,	6. I would travel around the world.
g. Terry would be a bodybuilder	7. they wouldn't be friends.

2) Write three sentences with second conditionals.

a.
b.
c.

Independent Practice: Answers - Conditionals - Type 2

1) Match the sentences.

a. I don't have an umbrella, so if it rained,	3. I would get wet.
b. If I won a lottery,	6. I would travel around the world.
c. If we had more money,	1. we would buy a bigger house.
d. If I were you,	4. I would buy these shoes.
e. What would you do	2. if you saw a kitten at your entrance door?
f. If they didn't like each other,	7. they wouldn't be friends.
g. Terry would be a bodybuilder	5. if he worked out more.

2) Write three sentences with second conditionals. Sample Answers:

- a. Where would you be if you could live anywhere in the world?
- b. If I were you, I would ask him out.
- c. If there were more shops nearby, I wouldn't have to spend 30 minutes on a drive.