

SECOND CONDITIONAL

Formation:

If + past simple, + would + base form

For Example: If I were you, I'd tell her.

IF	CONDITION	RESULT	SITUATION
	Past simple	Would + base form	
If	I had the time,	I would learn Italian.	Impossible I don't have the time, so I'm not going to learn Italian.
If	I won the lottery	I would travel around the world.	Unlikely There's a very small chance of winning the lottery, so the trip is unlikely

Past tense of "To be" verbs:

I , it, he , she + was → for **second conditional** and in a **formal** way, you can also use "were" instead of "was"
they , you , we + were

- 1 Complete the second sentence in each pair to mean the same as the first. Use the second conditional.
- 1 I can't drive a car; I'm too young.
If I weren't too young, I could drive a car a car.
 - 2 He won't offer you a job; you aren't reliable enough.
If You were more reliable, he would offer you a job.
 - 3 She hasn't got a dog; her flat is really small.
If her flat Was/were bigger, she would have a dog.
 - 4 I can't use my brother's phone; I don't know the password.
If I Knew the password, I could use my brother's phone.
 - 5 She isn't a good guitarist; she doesn't practise.
If She practiced, she would be a good guitarist.
 - 6 We can't go to the beach; it isn't sunny today.
If It were/was sunny today, we could go to the beach.

2 Complete these second conditional sentences with the correct verb form and your own ideas.

1 If I lived (live) in the USA, I would work harder!

2 If I had (have) ten brothers and sisters,
I would get mad!

3 If humans could (can) fly, They would be happier

4 If I could (can) travel through time, I would go to 100 years ago

5 If computers Didn't exist (not exist), Humanity would no have too much progress

6 If I found (find) a diamond ring, I would find its owner

I wish
If only



+ past simple

→ We want a situation different from how it is now!
= regret in PRESENT

Past tense of "To be" verbs:

I , it, he , she + was → for the formal speaking,
they , you , we + were
way, you can also use "were" instead of "was"

I live in a village (NOW). I wish I lived in a big city!
It is Monday TODAY, but I wish it were Friday today!

+ could(n't) + base form of V

→ I want a situation that "I" act differently

I wish I could pass my exam

+ would (n't) + base form of V

→ I want somebody (or something) else to behave differently

I wish she wouldn't shout.
If only the phone would stop ringing!

6 Explain the difference in meaning between these two sentences.

- a I wish my penfriend spoke English. Penfriend cannot speak English, I wish (hope) a different situation**
- b I wish my penfriend would speak English.**

Penfriend can speak English but she /he doesn't!, I wish (hope) she change her behaviour

1 Rewrite these critical sentences using *I wish ...* or *If only ...* + *would*.

1 Jack is always forgetting his sports kit.

I wish Jack wouldn't forget his sports kit.

2 My dad is always singing in the shower.

3 She's always sending me text messages at night.

4 You're always borrowing my dictionary.

5 Our car is always breaking down on the motorway.

6 You're always telling people my secrets.

2 I wish / If only my dad wouldn't sing in the shower.

3 I wish / If only she wouldn't send me text messages at night.

4 I wish / If only you wouldn't borrow my dictionary.

5 I wish / If only our car wouldn't break down on the motorway.

6 I wish / If only you wouldn't tell people my secrets.

- 2** Complete the sentences with the past simple or *would* + the infinitive without *to* form of the verbs in brackets.
- 1 I wish I had (have) a brother or sister.
 - 2 If only they Would stop (stop) talking – I can't hear the film.
 - 3 I wish you Would take (take) a photo of me so I could send it to my friends.
 - 4 If only we understood (understand) Spanish, we could ask for directions.
 - 5 I wish you liked (like) Chinese food; I don't want pizza again.
 - 6 I wish you Would finish (finish) that burger; I don't like the smell.

LOOK OUT!

! In second conditional sentences and after *If only ...* or *I wish ...*, we often use *were* instead of *was*.

I wish I were a little bit taller.



7 Read the **Look out!** box. Then complete the first line of each mini-dialogue with the verbs in brackets. Use the past simple or *would / could + infinitive without to*. Complete the other lines with the second conditional.

A I wish my dad ¹ Would come (come) home.

B Why?

A Because he ² Would give (give) us a lift into town if he ³ Was/were (be) here.

A If only you ⁴ lived (live) near the town centre.

B Why?

A Because if your house ⁵ Was/were (be) near the centre, we ⁶ Would get (get) the same bus to school.

A I wish my parents' friends ⁷ Would leave (leave).

B Why?

A Because if they ⁸ Weren't (not be) in the house, we ⁹ could (can) turn the music up to full volume!