

Would and the Second Conditional

Intermediate English, Week 12, Winter 2021

The word *would*

- *Would* is a form of the word *will*. We can use both words to talk about the future
- We use *will* for something certain in the future
 - Tomorrow, I will go shopping with my family.
- *Would* is for something that is uncertain or imaginary – it probably won't be true
 - I *would* buy a big house if I had one million dollars

Grammar of *would*

- *Would* is a modal – we need to use it together with another verb
 - I *would* eat at a restaurant every day.
- Remember, don't change either part! No –ed, -s, or –ing
 - She *would* play tennis. NOT ~~She would playing~~ OR ~~She would played~~
- The negative is *would not* (*wouldn't*)
 - If I had time, I *wouldn't* stay at home and watch TV.

Second conditional

- A conditional sentence uses *if* to talk about a possible situation
 - If I lived in Hawaii, I **would** go to the beach every day.
- The second conditional is for something that probably won't happen. It is something that isn't real
 - If I became president, everyone **would** go to university for free.
- ***If* + past simple sentence + *would* sentence**
 - If she woke up early, she **wouldn't** be late for work.
 - If we had a mansion, we **would** invite everyone to a big party.

Using *were* or *was*

- In the second conditional, we often use the verb *to be* differently
- Normally – I was, you were, she/he/it was, we were, they were (past simple)
 - I **was** a doctor.
 - She **was** rich.
- But in the second conditional, we can also use *were* for I, he/she/it
 - If I **were** a doctor, I would love my job.
 - If she **were** rich, she would travel around the world.
- This is called the *subjunctive*. It is very uncommon in English
- Popular expression – “If I **were** you, I would...”

Let's practice! Fix the mistakes

1. If I had a lot of money, I would ~~buying~~ a fast car.
2. If you were a good cook, we ~~will~~ ^{would} eat delicious food every day.
3. If I ~~live~~ ^{lived} near the beach, I would learn how to surf.
4. If they got a different job, they ~~won't~~ ^{wouldn't} be so tired.
5. If she exercised every day, her body ~~was~~ ^{would be} healthier.

If you had \$1,000,000, what would you do?



If you could travel anywhere, where would you go?



If you could have any job, what would you do?

