

## Lesson Plan: Second conditional

<b>Level</b>	Beginner / Intermediate (A2-B1)
<b>Time</b>	50-60 minutes
<b>Skills</b>	Grammar, speaking, writing
<b>Focus</b>	If + past simple + would — imaginary present/future situations; advice with If I were you

### OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Form the second conditional correctly: if + past simple, would + infinitive
- Use the second conditional to talk about imaginary or unlikely situations
- Use 'If I were you...' to give advice
- Distinguish between first conditional (real possibility) and second conditional (imaginary)

### TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

#### Second conditional form

- If + subject + past simple, subject + would + base verb
- If I had more money, I would travel the world.
- She would be happier if she lived closer to work.
- What would you do if you lost your job tomorrow?

#### Contractions and variations

- I would → I'd: I'd buy a new car if I had the money.
- could / might instead of would: If I had more time, I could learn piano.
- If I were you (NOT 'was') — formal/standard: If I were you, I'd apologise.

#### First vs. second conditional

- First: If it rains, I'll take an umbrella. (real possibility — it might actually rain)
- Second: If it rained every day, I'd move to a sunnier country. (imaginary/unlikely)
- Key question: is this a real possibility? Yes → first. Imaginary? → second.

#### Meaning & Nuance

Situation	First or second?	Example
Real possibility: it might happen	First conditional	If I'm late, I'll call you.
Imaginary: it won't happen	Second conditional	If I were invisible, I'd spy on my boss.
Giving advice	Second conditional (If I were you...)	If I were you, I'd talk to her.
Dream / wish	Second conditional	If I could fly, I'd travel everywhere for free.
General truth / habit	Zero conditional	If you heat ice, it melts.

## LESSON PROCEDURE

### 1. Warm-up: Dream scenarios (5 min)

**Task:** If you could have any superpower, what would it be? Students share ideas.

→ *Elicits second conditional naturally before formal instruction.*

### 2. Presentation (15 min)

**Task:** Introduce the form with clear colour coding: if-clause (past simple) + result (would).

- Contrast with first conditional: real possibility vs. imaginary situation.
- If I were you: explain that 'were' is used for all persons in formal English.
- Could/might as alternatives to would for possibility.

### 3. Guided practice (10 min)

**Task:** Complete second conditional sentences and identify first vs. second.

- 'If I \_\_\_\_ (be) the president, I \_\_\_\_ (change) the tax system.'

→ *were / would change*

### 4. Speaking: What would you do if...? (20 min)

**Task:** Discussion cards with imaginative second conditional prompts.

- 'What would you do if you found a wallet full of cash?'
- 'If you could live in any country, where would you live and why?'
- 'If you could change one thing about your school / workplace, what would it be?'
- Students must answer in a full second conditional sentence.

## TEACHER NOTES

- 'If I were you' — learners often say 'If I was you' in informal speech. Both are heard, but 'were' is the standard taught form.
- The first/second distinction confuses many learners — the 'is it real or imaginary?' test is the most reliable shortcut.

## EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write 5 second conditional sentences about things you would change in your life.
2. Write a dialogue where one person gives advice using 'If I were you...' at least 3 times.
3. Write a short paragraph: 'If I won the lottery...' using second conditional throughout.