

What is the Second Conditional?

Worksheet

The second conditional follows the pattern: If + simple past, would/could/might + base verb.

Example: 'If I won the lottery, I would travel the world.'

Questions

1. Complete: 'If I _____ a million dollars, I would retire.'

- A) won
- B) win
- C) will win
- D) would win

2. What verb form follows 'would' in the result?

- A) Past tense
- B) Base verb
- C) Past participle
- D) Gerund

3. Why does 'If I were' sound correct despite being grammatically unusual?

- A) It's not standard English
- B) It's the subjunctive form used in conditionals
- C) It's archaic
- D) Everyone uses 'was'

4. Which expresses an imaginary situation?

- A) If I win, I will celebrate.
- B) If I won, I would celebrate.
- C) If I have won, I will celebrate.
- D) If I won, I celebrate.

5. Complete: 'If I _____ (be) rich, I would buy a house.'

6. Complete: 'If she _____ (speak) English, she could work abroad.'

7. Complete: 'If you _____ (have) wings, you _____ fly.'

8. Define: What is the second conditional?

9. Define: When is the second conditional used?

10. Define: Why use 'were' for 'I' instead of 'was'?

Answer Key

1. A) won — Second conditional uses simple past in the if clause: 'If I won.'
2. B) Base verb — Would + base verb: 'would travel', 'would help', 'would go.'
3. B) It's the subjunctive form used in conditionals — The subjunctive 'were' is used in second conditionals for all subjects.
4. B) If I won, I would celebrate. — Second conditional (If I won, I would) expresses imaginary or unlikely situations.
5. If clause with past tense: If I were (not 'was') Result clause: would + base verb Final: If I were rich, I would buy a house.
6. If clause: If she spoke (simple past) Result clause: could + base verb Final: If she spoke English, she could work abroad.
7. If clause: If you had (simple past) Result clause: could + base verb Final: If you had wings, you could fly.
8. The second conditional expresses imaginary or unlikely situations: If + simple past, would + base verb.
9. For dreams, wishes, or situations contrary to fact: 'If I could fly, I would travel everywhere.'
10. In second conditionals, use 'were' for all subjects to maintain formal distance from reality.

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