

GRAMMAR

The use of *if* sentences: *the 2nd conditional*

"If I were going on holiday to Mykonos, I would/wouldn't ... because ..."

If + past tense would/wouldn't + infinitive

The combination of the **past tense** and **would**, as shown above, usually suggest that the situation is **imaginary** or **impossible**, or **less definite** to happen.

If I became Prime Minister, I'd increase salaries.

If I spoke fluent English, I'd work as an interpreter.

PRACTICE

Match the prompts in A with the prompts in B and then write the sentences using the second conditional.

A

I/win the lottery

I/be a teacher

I/know his number

Mary/not live so far

We/live close to the station

I/have more free time

She/be so shy

It/not rain

B

I/phone him

We/go to work by car

I/travel around the world

She/have friends

We/go for a walk

I/not give much homework

I/go out more often

We/visit her more often



If I won the lottery, I would travel around the world.

If I were a teacher, I wouldn't give much homework.

If I knew his number, I'd phone him.

If Mary didn't live so far, we'd visit her more often.

If we lived close to the station, we wouldn't go to work by car.

If I had more free time, I'd go out more often.

If she weren't so shy, she would (she'd) have more friends.

If it weren't raining, we'd go for a walk.