THESE ARE THINGS WHICH ARE:

1. Possible, but much less probable than First Conditional sentences.
2. Unreal events

IF + Past Simple or Continuous + would, could, might + Infinitive

If there was a cheap holiday, I would buy it.
If I won the lottery, I could give 50% to charity.
If you made me a cake, I would eat it 😊

If brussel sprouts were delicious, I would eat more of them.
If the earth were flat, we could fall off the edge.
If the iPad were free, I would have one.

Would, Could, Might + Infinitive + If + Past Simple or Continuous

I would go to Australia if it wasn’t so far away.
I would eat that muffin if it were mine.
I would live in a castle if I were rich.

Note:
1. The correct form of the verb ‘to be’ in the if-clause, is were, but was is also possible, and is often used in spoken English e.g. I would eat that muffin, if it were/was mine.
2. The Second Conditional is used for giving advice:
   • If I were you, I would resign.
   • If I were you, I would go to bed earlier.
SECOND CONDITIONAL  

**TEACHER’S notes**

---

**Exercise 1**

Get the students to fill in the missing words in the gap-fill exercise in the Students’ Notes. Answers:

1. If she made more effort, I would consider helping her.
2. If electric cars didn’t have such large batteries, they would be quicker to drive.
3. I wouldn’t carry my wallet around in my pocket if I were you.
4. If I trained properly, I could run a marathon.
5. I would go on a diet if I were overweight.
6. If I had a garden, I would grow roses.
7. Would you be surprised if it snowed in July?
8. If I knew his number, I could give him a call.
9. You would get better results, if you worked harder.
10. If I had more spare time, I would write a book.

**Exercise 2**

Write the following phrases onto flashcards:

If I had more money....
If I had more time.......
If I were an alien........
If I were you........
If I lived in the country.......
If you were me,.........?

Place the flashcards face down on the table, and get the students to pick one up, and complete the sentence in their own words.

**Exercise 3**

Give the students blank flashcards. On each of their flashcards they need to write the first clause of a second conditional sentence. Once they have all completed this task, place the flashcards face down on the table. The students need to take it in turns to pick one up, and complete the sentences in their own words.

**Exercise 4**

You are going to give the students the first clause of one second conditional sentence. The first student has to complete that sentence in their own words. The next student has to take the second clause from that sentence, and change it into the first clause of another sentence, and complete that sentence. The next student continues in the same way e.g.
I would be happy if ……

*First student:* I would be happy if it was sunny every day.
*Second student:* If it were sunny every day, I would want to spend every day at the beach.
*Third student:* If I spent every day at the beach, I would be good at surfing.
*Fourth student:* If I were good at surfing, I would go to international competitions.
etc etc

Some potential starters:
- I would be happy if ……
- If I lived in the country ……
- If I had more money I would ……

**Exercise 5**

Meet Jane and John. They are about to get married, but John has arrived at the wedding looking like this. Get the students to make sentences describing what John would have to do, to make Jane happier about his appearance e.g.

*If he took off his sunglasses, he would look much better.*

*Jane would really appreciate it if John shaved.*

**Exercise 6**

Get the students to answer the following questions:

1. What historical period would you travel to if you could travel to any time at all?
2. Who would you want to meet if you could meet anyone at all – past or present?
3. If you could change the history syllabus at school, what would you do?
4. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
5. If you had one wish, what would it be?
6. If you could go (or go back) to university, what would you study?
These are things which are:

1. Possible, but much less probable than First Conditional sentences.
2. Unreal events

If + Past Simple or Continuous + would, could, might + Infinitive

If there was a cheap holiday, I would buy it.
If I won the lottery, I could give 50% to charity.
If you made me a cake, I would eat it 😊
If brussel sprouts were delicious, I might eat more of them.
If the earth was flat, we could fall off the edge.
If the iPad was free, I would have one.

Would, could, might + Infinitive + If + Past Simple or Continuous

I would go to Australia if it wasn’t so far away.
I would eat that muffin if it were mine.
I would live in a castle if I were rich.

Note:

1. The correct form of the verb ‘to be’ in the if-clause, is were, but was is also possible, and is often used in spoken English e.g. I would eat that muffin, if it were/was mine.
2. The Second Conditional is used for giving advice:
   - If I were you, I would resign.
   - If I were you, I would go to bed earlier.
SECOND CONDITIONAL  STUDENTS’ notes

Exercise

1. If she _______ (make) more effort, I would _________(consider) helping her.
2. If electric cars didn’t _______(have) such large batteries, they would ________(be) quicker to drive.
3. I wouldn’t _________(carry) my wallet around in my pocket if I ________(be) you.
4. If I ________(train) properly, I could _________(run) a marathon.
5. I would ________(go) on a diet if I _________(be) overweight.
6. If I ______(have) a garden, I would ________(grow) roses.
7. Would you _________(be) surprised if it ________(snow) in July?
8. If I ______(know) his number, I could ________(give) him a call.
9. You would _________(get) better results, if you ________(work) harder.
10. If I _________(have) more spare time, I would _________(write) a book.

Meet Jane and John. They are about to get married, but John has arrived at the wedding looking like this. Make sentences describing what John would have to do, to make Jane happier about his appearance e.g.

If he took off his sunglasses, he would look much better.
Jane would really appreciate it if John shaved.

Answer the following questions:

1. What historical period would you travel to if you could travel to any time at all?
2. Who would you want to meet if you could meet anyone at all – past or present?
3. If you could change the history syllabus at school, what would you do?
4. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
5. If you had one wish, what would it be?
6. If you could go (or go back) to university, what would you study?