



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Second Conditional in Future Plans

Future Plans and Ambitions | Imaginary situations | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	What would you study if you could choose any subject?
2	Where would you travel if money were not a problem?
3	What job would suit you if you had more confidence?
4	What skill would you learn if you had more free time?

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Imagining Different Futures

Many students dream about the future. If they **had** more time, they **would learn** new skills such as coding, photography or public speaking.

Some learners say that if they **could travel** abroad, they **would improve** their English and become more independent. Others would prefer to stay close to family.

The second conditional is useful for discussing ambitions. If a student **were** more confident, they **might apply** for a leadership role, volunteer project or part-time job.

3. Notice the pattern

Use the second conditional for imaginary or unlikely present/future situations: if + past simple, would/could/might + infinitive.

Use	Form / signal	Example
If clause	past simple	If I had more time,
Result clause	would + infinitive	I would learn a new skill.
Possibility	could/might + infinitive	I might apply for a scholarship.
Formal be	If I were...	If I were older, I would travel alone.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	If I / have / more free time, I / learn / coding.	would	
2	If she / be / more confident, she / apply / for the role.	would	
3	If students / travel / abroad, they / improve / their English.	could	
4	If he / know / his goal, he / make / a better plan.	might	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Discuss what you would do if you had a free year after school.
Writing	Write a paragraph about an ambition you would follow if you had the chance.
Reading	Underline the second conditional forms in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	If I would have more time, I would study art.	
2	If she is more confident, she would apply.	
3	I would travelled if I had money.	
4	If students could travelled, they would learn more.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. What would you do if you could choose any career?
2. If you had more free time, what skill would you learn?
3. Would you study abroad if you had the chance?
4. What would schools change if students designed the timetable?

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4. Build accurate sentences

1. If I had more free time, I would learn coding.
2. If she were more confident, she would apply for the role.
3. If students travelled abroad, they could improve their English.
4. If he knew his goal, he might make a better plan.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. If I had more time, I would study art.
2. If she were more confident, she would apply.
3. I would travel if I had money.
4. If students could travel, they would learn more.

Notes for checking

1. If clause: past simple - If I had more time,
2. Result clause: would + infinitive - I would learn a new skill.
3. Possibility: could/might + infinitive - I might apply for a scholarship.
4. Formal be: If I were... - If I were older, I would travel alone.