

# 9

## 9A second conditional: *if + past, would / wouldn't*

- 1 If a bull **attacked** me, I'd **run** away. (4 16))  
If you **didn't go** to bed so late, you **wouldn't be** so tired in the morning.  
**Would** you **take** the manager's job **if** they **offered** it to you?
- 2 If I **had** more time, I'd **do** more exercise.  
I'd **do** more exercise **if I had** more time.
- 3 If we **went** by car, we **could stop** at places on the way.

- 1 Use *if + past* to talk about an imaginary or hypothetical future situation and *would / wouldn't + verb* to talk about the consequence.
  - *would / wouldn't* is the same for all persons.
  - Contractions: 'd = *would* (*I'd, you'd, he'd*, etc.); *wouldn't* = *would not*.
- 2 The *if* clause can come first or second. If the *if* clause comes first, we usually put a comma before the next clause.
- 3 You can also use *could + base form* instead of *would + base form* in the other clause.

### **be in second conditionals**

With the verb *be* you can use *were* (instead of *was*) after *I / he / she / it*, e.g.,  
*If Jack **was** / **were** here, he'd know what to do.*

Use *were* (not *was*) in the expression *If I **were** you,...*

We often use this expression for advice, e.g., ***If I were you**, I wouldn't take that job.*

### first or second conditional?

Compare the first and second conditionals.

- Use the **first conditional** for **possible** future situations.

*If I **don't have to** work tomorrow, I'll help you.*  
(= It's a possibility. Maybe I will help you.)

- Use the **second conditional** for **imaginary** or **hypothetical** situations.

*If I **didn't have to** work tomorrow, I'd help you.*  
(= It's a hypothetical situation. I have to work, so I can't help you.)

## GRAMMAR BANK

### 9A

#### a Match the sentence halves.

You'd feel much better  A

1 I'd enjoy the weekend more

2 If it's sunny tomorrow,

3 Would you wear it

4 If we learned Portuguese,

5 I wouldn't work

6 If I went to live in Tokyo,

A if you did some exercise.

B would you come to visit me?

C if I bought it for you?

D we could go to the beach.

E if I didn't have to work on Saturday.

F we could go and work in Brazil.

G if I didn't need the money.

#### b Complete with the correct form of the verbs.

If I *found* a good job, I *would move* to the US. (find, move)

1 We \_\_\_\_\_ the house if it \_\_\_\_\_ a yard. (buy, have)

2 If you \_\_\_\_\_ Indian food, I'm sure you \_\_\_\_\_ it. (try, like)

3 You \_\_\_\_\_ more if you \_\_\_\_\_ harder. (learn, work)

4 If we \_\_\_\_\_ a car, we \_\_\_\_\_ drive up to the mountains. (rent, can)

5 We \_\_\_\_\_ our son more often if he \_\_\_\_\_ nearer. (see, live)

6 I \_\_\_\_\_ to that restaurant if I \_\_\_\_\_ you – it's very expensive.  
(not go, be)

7 I \_\_\_\_\_ you to the airport if my mom \_\_\_\_\_ the car.  
(take, not have)

8 I really like riding a bike, but I \_\_\_\_\_ my bike to work if I \_\_\_\_\_ a car. (not ride, have)

9 \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ your country if you \_\_\_\_\_ a well-paid job abroad? (leave, get)

10 I love living here. I \_\_\_\_\_ happy if I \_\_\_\_\_ leave. (not be, have to)