

Second Conditional and the Lottery



1. Read the story below.

On a cold, dark Thursday evening Theo is about to leave work when he gets a strange message from his friend Kylie:

Kylie: *"Hi Theo, long time no see... do you want to meet after work today? Something crazy has happened."*

Theo: *"Hi Kylie, it's been ages! I would if I could, but I have a salsa class tonight so I'm busy. How about Saturday?"*

Kylie: *"I'm sorry Theo, I wouldn't ask if this wasn't important, but I really need to talk to you tonight."*

Theo is an accountant, and he's spent all day staring at tax returns and spreadsheets, but Kylie's message makes him curious. If she didn't live close to his house he probably wouldn't go, but she lives just around the corner, so he agrees. When he arrives Kylie seems nervous. Theo sits on the sofa while Kylie paces back and forth her living room.

Theo: *"So... it's nice to see you again, but I have to ask, what's going on?"*

Kylie: *"Well... I don't know quite how to say this. You're a tax accountant, right? And that means you're good with money?"*

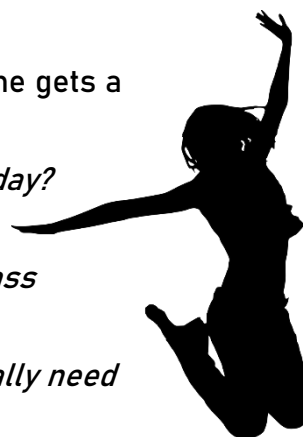
Theo: *"I wouldn't be very good at my job if I wasn't good with money. What's this about Kylie? Are you having money problems?"*

Kylie: *"Not exactly. Can I ask you something? What would you do if you won the lottery?"*

Theo: *"Well that depends. If I won a small amount like \$10,000 I would put some in my savings account and invest the rest. If it was a bigger amount... well that's more complicated. If I won a larger amount like a million dollars, the first thing I would do is hire a lawyer and a tax advisor. Why?"*

Kylie: *"Well... what would you say if I offered you a job? Because my father gave me a lottery ticket, and last night I won 10 million dollars!"*

(Find out how the story ends at the end of the worksheet)



If a situation in the future is very unlikely to happen, a conditional called "second conditional" is used.

The structure of second conditional is (If + past simple)....(would + Infinitive).

Eg. *If America went to war with Canada, the whole world would go crazy.*

or in question form: *What would you do if your partner bought a cat?*



2. Find five examples of second conditional in the story above.



3. Complete these sentences using the 2nd conditional.

- a) I (drink) a lot of coffee if I (go) to Italy.
- b) If I (have to) live in a different city, I (live) in Berlin.
- c) If he (can) go anywhere he (go) to South America.
- d) If I (have) a dog I (go) for a walk every day.
- e) What you (do) if you (find) a million dollars?



4. Complete the second half of these 2nd conditional statements with answers that are true for you.

- a) If I worked from home,.....
- b) If I could play any instrument,
- c) I would quit my job if.....
- d) If I had more time,
- e) If I didn't have a phone,
- f) I would move house if

Second conditional is also commonly used to give advice. Eg. *"If I were you, I would invest your money in the stock market"* or *"I'd look for a new apartment if I were you."*



5. Make a piece of advice in the second conditional for each sentence below.

- a) "I get the flu at least twice a year, and I feel like I always have a cold"
- b) "I've been offered a job in Paris, it pays twice as much as my current job but I'm nervous about moving, and I can't speak French."
- c) "My boyfriend wants to move in with me, but he doesn't want to pay rent or do any of the cleaning."
- d) "I'm not sure what to study in university. I'm on the fence between computer science and political science."
- e) "I want to start investing. I have 3000 dollars in my savings account, and I'm thinking about investing it all into cryptocurrency."



6. Ask your partner these questions. Write down their answers and tell the class what your partner would do if they won the lottery.

- What would you do if you won the lottery? Who would you tell first?
- How would your life change?
- Do you think there could be any downsides to winning the lottery? What would they be?
- What do you think your closest friend would do if they won the lottery?



7. Listen to the end of the conversation between Kylie and Theo and answer the questions.

- How often does Kylie buy lottery tickets for herself?
- Why would it be a bad idea for Kylie to tell her dad?
- Why would it be a bad idea for Kylie to tell her mum?
- How would Theo feel if Kylie hired someone else as a tax advisor?
- What's the difference between a lump sum payment and a yearly payment?
- What is the benefit of taking 10 yearly payments?
- Why does Theo recommend taking the lump sum?
- What would Theo do if he won 10 million dollars?



8. Pair work: You and your partner have won 5 million dollars *together*. You can only have the money if you spend it as a team. If you go on a trip, you must go together, if you buy a house, you must live there together. Decide what you will do with the money as a team.