

## 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?"*

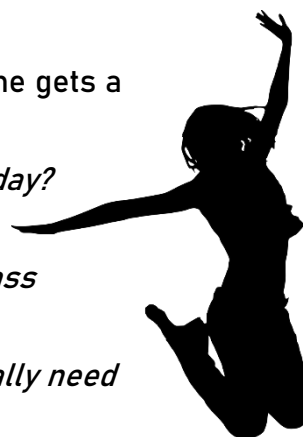
Theo: *"I wouldn't be very good at my job if I wasn't good with money. What's this about Kylie? Are you having money problems?"*

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 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional.**

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



**4. Complete the second half of these 2<sup>nd</sup> 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? *Never*
- Why would it be a bad idea for Kylie to tell her dad? *Because he would tell everyone*
- Why would it be a bad idea for Kylie to tell her mum? *Because she would tell her Dad*
- How would Theo feel if Kylie hired someone else as a tax advisor? *He would not be offended, he would be ok with it*
- What's the difference between a lump sum payment and a yearly payment? *A lump sum is all at once, a yearly payment is spread over several years.*
- What is the benefit of taking 10 yearly payments? *Probably pay less tax*
- Why does Theo recommend taking the lump sum? *Because she wants to buy 2 houses*
- What would Theo do if he won 10 million dollars? *He would quit his job.*



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.

## Audio Transcript

*Theo: I'm sorry... what?*

*Kylie: I won the lottery... I know it sounds crazy. My Dad gives me a ticket every week, it's kind of a tradition. If he didn't give me the tickets I would never buy them, but every week he gives me one, and last night... well last night I checked the lottery numbers and I have the winning ticket!*

*Theo: Wow Ok... did you say 10 million??*

*Kylie: I did... I can't believe it. I'm still in shock.*

*Theo: That's insane Kylie. Congratulations... have you told anyone yet?*

*Kylie: No, nobody.*

*Theo: Not even your Dad?*

*Kylie: No, if I told my Dad everybody would know before the end of the day, he can't keep a secret to save his life.*

*Theo: Ok, well I wouldn't tell anyone if I were you, not for a couple of weeks at least.*

*Kylie: Can I tell my mother?*

*Theo: Would she tell your Dad?*

*Kylie: Yes she would....oh haha ok good point, I won't tell her. But what should I do? I'm kind of freaking out.*

*Theo: Well I think you should hire a tax advisor, obviously I think that should be me, but I wouldn't be offended if you decided to hire someone else.*

*Kylie: Theo I want to hire you, I wouldn't have called you if I didn't want you to give me advice. But what now?*

*Ok great. Well, for this much money I think it would be a mistake if you didn't hire a lawyer too. They can help you deal with the lottery company. I can recommend a good one. Now have you thought about taking a lump sum payment versus taking a yearly payment?*

*Kylie: What... I don't even know what that means.*

*Theo: Well with this much money usually the lottery company either offers to give you the whole 10 million right away, or you can take 10 yearly payments of 1 million dollars.*

*Kylie: What? Why would I take 10 yearly payments of 1 million when I could just take the whole 10 million right now?*

*Theo: Well, if you took the 10 yearly payments of 1 million dollars you would probably get taxed less in the end. But it really depends on what you want to do. Do you want to invest, or buy a house?*

*Kylie: I'm not sure if I'm going to invest, but I would love to buy a house for myself and one for my parents.*

*Theo: Well in that case if I were you, I would take the whole 10 million right now. 1 million dollars is a lot, but if you took 1 million and bought 2 houses, you would probably not have much left till the next yearly payment.*

*Kylie: Ok good point, and what else, would you do?*

*Theo: Honestly, if I were in your shoes, I would quit my job.*

*Kylie: I'm going to do that tomorrow actually. I can't wait.*