**Second conditional**

**Form**

* We form the second conditional using:

***If + past simple, would + infinitive without to***

***If*** *you* ***changed*** *the atmosphere, different organisms* ***would******grow****.*

*Rain* ***wouldn't******fall******if*** *the temperature* ***stayed*** *the same.*

* We can use if in two positions:

*If*-clause first: *If you trained for seven years, you would become an engineer.*

Main clause first: *You would become an engineer if you trained for seven years.*

When the *if*-clause is at the beginning of the sentence, we use a comma to separate it from the main clause.

* We can also form the second conditional with ***could*** and ***might*** instead of *would*:

*lf there was soil, plants* ***could*** *be introduced.*

*lf oxygen was introduced, forests* ***might*** *grow.*

Note that the contracted form of *would* is *'d*. Don't confuse the contracted forms of *would* and *had*.

*They****'d*** *spend more on space exploration if it was less expensive*. (= They ***would*** spend)

*They****'d*** *spent $500 million to develop a new space capsule*. (= They ***had*** spent)

**Use**

We use the second conditional to talk about unreal or imagined situations in the present or future. The situations are:

* possible but not probable.

*If l had a lot of money, I would buy a Ferrari. (I don't think it's very probable this will happen.)*

* impossible.

*lf l was French, I'd understand this film.* (But I'm English.)

Note that when we use the past simple with *if,* it refers to the present or future, NOT to the past.

* When we give advice, we often use ***If I were you*** rather than *If I was you*.

*lf I were you, l'd train to be a scientist.*