

Reminder

Grammar reference page 171

We often use *would* to talk about imaginary situations.

What would you do?

It'd depend.

I wouldn't want to break the rules.

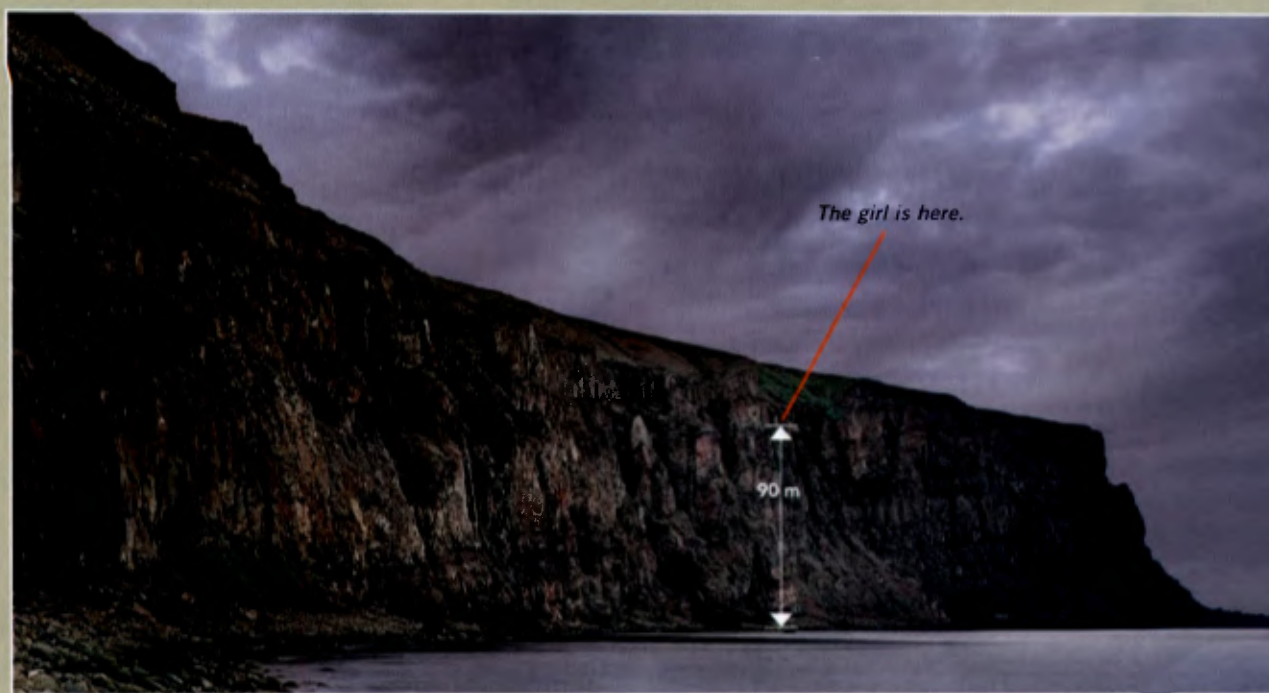
We form second conditional sentences with *if* and *would*.

if + past, would + present

If something bad happened, I'd feel terrible.

Reading and speaking: A rescue dilemma

1 Work in groups. You are going to read a rescue story and make some decisions. Read the situations and discuss what to do.



1 You're a volunteer coastguard* and one evening you receive a call for help. A young teenage girl is stuck on a cliff*. The rocks under her feet have fallen away and she is hanging on by her hands. She's very frightened. You have a rope and other rescue equipment in your truck but it would take five or ten minutes to get it. It's very windy and you think she could fall any minute. A helicopter is coming but it won't arrive for half an hour.

coastguard: a person who helps boats and swimmers that are in danger
cliff: a high piece of land with a very steep side, usually next to the sea

»» What would you do and why? Discuss and agree. Then go to **7**.

2 What are you doing reading this? Should you be reading **7**?

3 The Coastguard Organization said it was glad nobody died and it launched an investigation into the rescue. It found that Paul broke the organization's safety rule because he didn't go back to his truck to get ropes and equipment before he climbed down the cliff.

»» If you were Paul's boss, what would you do now and why? Discuss and agree. Then go to **8**.

4 Paul resigned from his job and then gave an interview on a BBC radio show. 'I understand I broke a rule but I felt I had to,' he said. 'There's no way I'm going to stand back and watch a 13-year-old girl fall off a cliff.'

»» Imagine you work for the Coastguard Organization again. What would you do now and what would you say to the press*? Discuss and agree. Then go to **6**.
press: newspapers, magazines and other media