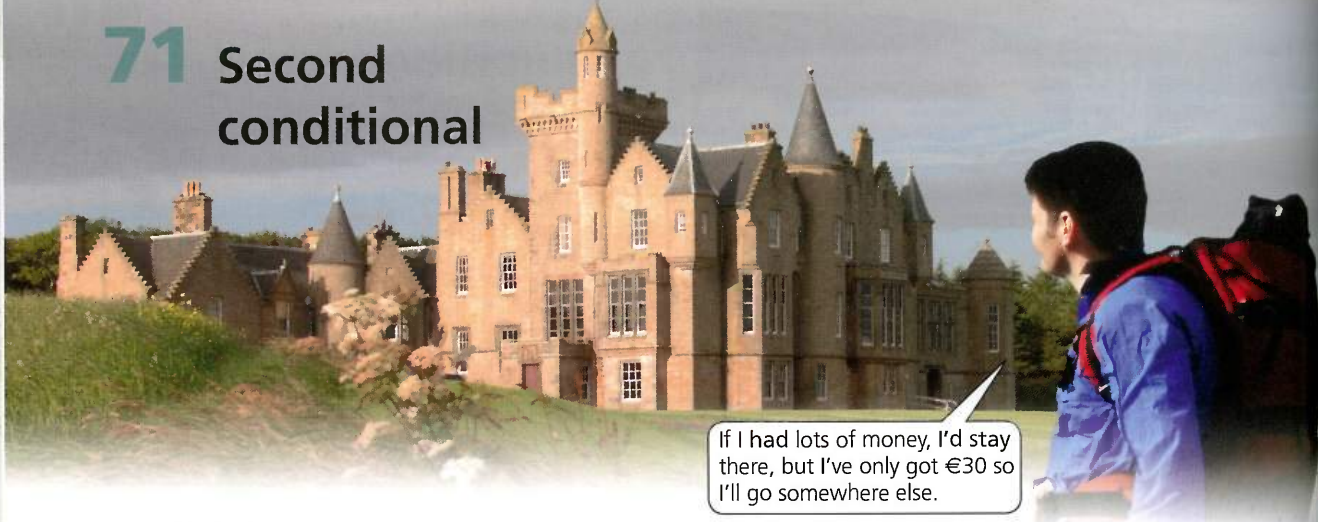


# 71 Second conditional



If I had lots of money, I'd stay there, but I've only got €30 so I'll go somewhere else.

## 1 Form

CONDITION ( <i>if ...</i> ) past simple	RESULT <i>would (not)</i> + infinitive without <i>to</i>
<i>If I had lots of money,</i>	<i>I'd (I would) stay there.</i>
<i>If I bought a motorbike,</i>	<i>I wouldn't (I would not) take the bus to work.</i>

We use the second conditional to describe a situation that we are imagining in the present or the future.



We use the past tense after *if*:

*X If I have lots of money, I'd stay there. ✓ If I had lots of money, I'd stay there.*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** We use the short forms *'d* and *wouldn't* in spoken English and in informal written English.

## 2 Use

We use the second conditional

- for future situations that probably won't happen:  
*If I won the race, I'd get a prize.*  
*If Carla got the job, she wouldn't be able to live here anymore.*
- for present situations that are not possible:  
*If David was here, he'd enjoy this film.* (He isn't here.)  
*If I had wings, I'd fly all over the world.* (I don't have wings.)  
What *would you do* if you *weren't* a student? (You are a student.)

Compare:

FIRST CONDITIONAL	SECOND CONDITIONAL
for something that might happen: <i>If you give me some money, I'll get some ice creams.</i>	for something that probably won't happen or is not possible: <i>If you gave me a million dollars, I'd stop work.</i>

After *if + I/he/she/it*, we can use *was* or *were*:

*If I was/were the president, I would reduce taxes. She'd love this place if she was/were here.*

## 3 *if I were/was you ...*

We often say *if I were/was you, I'd ...* to give advice:

*If I were you, I'd send him a text message.* (= I think you should send a text message.)

*There's always a big queue so I'd get there early if I were you.*

(= I think you should get there early.)



Pronunciation > 1.27