

*If I were taller, I'd join the basketball team.*

*If I were you, I'd leave now. (I and you are stressed in speech)*

■ *Were to*

*Were to* is another way of expressing a second conditional sentence.

*If they were to offer me the job, I'd turn it down.*

■ *With if*

A third conditional describes an unreal or imaginary situation in the past. A past perfect tense is used after *if*. *Would + have + past participle* is used in the result clause.

*If John had studied more, he would have got better marks.*

This means that John didn't study more. A past situation, different to the one that really happened, is imagined.

The modal verbs *might* and *could* are common in this kind of sentence.

*If you had tried harder, you might have succeeded.*

■ *Mixed conditions*

For past events which have a result continuing in the present, it is possible to use the form of a third conditional in the *if*-clause, and the form of a second conditional in the result clause.

*If you had saved some money, you wouldn't be so hard up.*

**Unreal/imaginary  
past situations: third  
conditional**

**Other if sentences**

*If* can mean *when* in the sense of *whenever*.

*If/When/Whenever it rains, we play football indoors instead.*

In this type of sentence we use the present simple in both the *if*-clause and the result clause.

*If* can also mean *if it is true that*.

*If (it is true that) you have a job like that, you are very lucky.*

*If (it is true that) nothing happened, you were lucky.*

*If + past simple* can be used for past events with a real possibility, or that we know are true. This type of sentence does not have any special grammar rules.

*If you missed the TV programme last night, you can borrow my recording.*

*If the police arrested him, they must suspect him.*