

The Second Conditional

The Second Conditional refers to an unreal (or very unlikely) situation in the PRESENT time. The most confusing thing about the second conditional is that we use the PAST TENSE in the "if" clause, even though we're referring to the PRESENT!

Consider the following examples:

"If I were rich, I would travel all over the world."
This means I am not rich at the PRESENT.

Take this quiz to help you practice.

1. If I were a bird, I...
 a. will fly and see many places.
 b. would fly and see many places.
 c. can fly and see many places.
2. If I were a computer, ...
 a. I will be very stupid.
 b. I am very stupid.
 c. I would be very stupid.
3. If there were no police officers, ...
 a. there would be so much crime in the streets.
 b. there will be so much crime in the streets.
 c. there won't be so much crime in the streets.
4. People would spend more time at home, if
 a. there were no restaurants.
 b. there are no restaurants.
 c. there will be no restaurants.
5. If I could speak Japanese, ...
 a. I will go to Japan.
 b. I would go to Japan.
 c. I am going to Japan.
6. If you saw a thief stealing, ...
 a. what would you do?
 b. what are you do?
 c. what are you doing?
7. If you were a colour, ...
 a. what colour will you be?
 b. what colour would you be?
 c. what colour are you be?
8. If you were given 1 million dollars, ...
 a. what will you do?
 b. what are you doing?
 c. what would you do?

ANSWERS:

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- b. what are you doing?
- c. what would you do?