

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

## Explanations

### Conditional 2: Imaginary conditions

Conditional sentences describe possible situations and their results. In 'imaginary situations' we imagine what the future would be like, if the present were different.

In this type of sentence, we use the past simple after *if* ..., and *would/wouldn't* in the other clause.

<u>clause 1</u>	<u>clause 2</u>
<i>If</i> + past simple,	<i>would</i> + verb

*If I knew the answer, I would tell you.*

In this situation, I do not know the answer.

**Note:** the past simple here does not describe past time. It imagines a different present time.

### Examples of conditional 2

*If I had a helicopter, I'd fly to school.*

*If I landed my helicopter at school, my teacher wouldn't like it!*

*If I were ...*

(in written/formal English)

*If I were a rock star, I'd live in New York.*

*If I were the head teacher, I'd give the class a holiday!*

*If I was ...*

(possible in informal speech)

*If I was a rock star, I'd live in New*

*York. If I was rich, I'd buy you a drink!*

### Giving advice

*If I were you, ...*

A: *I've got a terrible headache!*

B: *If I were you, I'd take an aspirin.*

A: *I feel really tired.*

B: *If I were you, I wouldn't go to bed late!*