

The difference between, for example ***if you take ...*** and ***if you took...*** is not a difference of time. They can both refer to the present or the future. It is a difference of probability.

1st conditional sentences express **real** or **possible** situations.

2nd conditional sentences express **hypothetical, improbable, impossible** or **imaginary** situations.

If I **become** president, I'll ...

(said by a candidate in an election)

If I **became** president, I **would** ...

(said by a schoolgirl)

If I **win** this race, I'll...

(said by the fastest runner)

If I **won** this race, I **would** ...

(said by the the slowest runner)

A Choose the correct verb forms.

- 1 If she(come) late again, she'll lose her job.
- 2 I'll let you know if I(find) out what's happening.
- 3 If we(live) in a town, life would be easier.
- 4 I'm sure he wouldn't mind if we(arrive) early.
- 5 We phone you if we have time.
- 6 If I won the lottery, Igive you half the money.

B Choose the most appropriate verb form.

- 1 If I (live/lived) to be 70,
- 2 If I (live/lived) to be 150,
- 3 If I (wake/woke) up early tomorrow,
- 4 If Scotland (declares/declared) war on Switzerland,
- 5 If there (is/was) nothing good on TV tonight,
- 6 If everybody (gives/ gave) ten per cent of their income to charity,
.....
- 7 If my English (is/was) better next year,
- 8 If the government (bans/banned) cars from city centres next year,
.....

C Rewrite these sentences using the second conditional.

- 1 I'm not rich. I don't live in a big house.
.....
- 2 He works in the evenings. He has no time to play with his children.
.....
- 3 She buys a lot of clothes. She has no money.
.....
- 4 I haven't got a car. I can't give you a lift.
.....
- 5 I go to bed late. In the morning I'm tired.
.....
- 6 She hasn't got a watch. She's always late.
.....