

If I had ... If we went ... etc.

A

Dan likes fast cars, but he doesn't have one. He doesn't have enough money.

If he **had** the money, he **would buy** a fast car.

Usually **had** is *past*, but in this sentence **had** is *not past*. If he **had** the money = if he had the money *now* (but he doesn't have it).



If	I	had / knew / lived / went (etc.) ... , didn't have / didn't know (etc.) ... , were ... , could ... ,	I	you it they etc.	would(n't) could(n't)	buy ... be ... have ... go ... etc.
	you it they etc.					

You can say:

- If he **had** the money, he **would buy** a car.
- or He **would buy** a car **if he had** the money.

I'd / she'd / they'd etc. = I **would** / she **would** / they **would** etc. :

- I don't know the answer. **If I knew** the answer, I'd **tell** you.
- It's raining, so we're not going out. **We'd get** wet **if we went** out.
- Jane lives in a city. She **likes cities**. She **wouldn't be** happy **if she lived** in the country.
- If you didn't have** a job, what **would you do?** (but you *have* a job)
- I'm sorry I can't help you. I'd **help** you **if I could**. (but I *can't*)
- If we had** a car, we **could travel** more. (but we *haven't* got a car, so we *can't* travel much)

B

If (I) **was/were** ...

You can say 'if I/he/she/it **was**' or 'if I/he/she/it **were**':

- It's not a very nice place. I **wouldn't go** there **if I were you**. (or ... **if I was** you)
- It **would be nice** **if the weather was** better. (or ... **if the weather were** better)
- What **would Tom do** **if he were** here? (or ... **if he was** here)



C

Compare:

if I have / if it is etc.

- I must go and see Helen.
If I have time, I **will go** today.
(= maybe I'll have time, so maybe I'll go)
- I like that jacket.
I'll **buy** it **if it isn't** too expensive.
(= maybe it will not be too expensive)
- I'll **help** you **if I can**. (= maybe I can help)

if I had / if it was etc.

- I must go and see Helen.
If I had time, I **would go** today.
(= I don't have time today, so I will not go)
- I like that jacket, but it's very expensive.
I'd **buy** it **if it wasn't** so expensive.
(= it is expensive, so I'm not going to buy it)
- I'd **help** you **if I could**, but I can't.

100.1 Complete the sentences.

- 1 I don't know the answer. If I knew the answer, I'd tell you.
- 2 I have a car. I couldn't travel very much if I didn't have a car.
- 3 I don't want to go out. If I to go out, I'd go.
- 4 We haven't got a key. If we a key, we could get into the house.
- 5 I'm not hungry. I would have something to eat if I hungry.
- 6 Sue enjoys her work. She wouldn't do it if she it.
- 7 He can't speak any foreign languages. If he speak a foreign language, perhaps he would get a better job.
- 8 You don't try hard enough. If you harder, you would have more success.
- 9 I have a lot to do today. If I so much to do, we could go out.

100.2 Put the verb in the correct form.

- 1 If he had the money, he would buy a fast car. (he/have)
- 2 Jane likes living in a city. She wouldn't be happy if she lived in the country. (she/not/be)
- 3 If I wanted to learn Italian, to Italy. (I/go)
- 4 I haven't told Helen what happened. She'd be angry if (she/know)
- 5 If a map, I could show you where I live. (we/have)
- 6 What would you do if a lot of money? (you/win)
- 7 It's not a very good hotel. there if I were you. (I/not/stay)
- 8 If nearer London, we would go there more often. (we/live)
- 9 It's a pity you have to go now. nice if you had more time. (it/be)
- 10 I'm not going to take the job. I'd take it if better.
(the salary/be)
- 11 I don't know anything about cars. If the car broke down,
what to do. (I/not/know)
- 12 If you could change one thing in the world, what ?
(you/change)

100.3 Complete the sentences. Choose from the box and put the verb in the correct form.

we (have) a bigger house	it (be) a bit cheaper	I (watch) it
we (buy) a bigger house	every day (be) the same	I (be) bored
we (have) some pictures on the wall	the air (be) cleaner	

- 1 I'd buy that jacket if it was a bit cheaper
- 2 If there was a good film on TV tonight,
- 3 This room would be nicer if
- 4 If there wasn't so much traffic,
- 5 Life would be boring if
- 6 If I had nothing to do,
- 7 We could invite all our friends to stay if
- 8 If we had more money,

100.4 Complete the sentences. Use your own ideas.

- 1 I'd be happier if I could get a better job
- 2 If I could go anywhere in the world,
- 3 I wouldn't be very happy if
- 4 I'd buy if
- 5 If I saw an accident in the street,
- 6 The world would be a better place if