

Conditional

The conditional is formed using the modal "**would**" in front of an infinitive (dropping the word "to"). The conditional is used especially in three contexts:

1) Politeness

I **would like** the menu, please.

Would you have a couple of minutes for me?

2) To indicate the "future within the past":

She said she **would come** to the party.

I thought he **would arrive** before me.

3) In hypothetical constructions with "if." When "if" is followed by the preterit or the subjunctive, the conditional is expected in the second clause:

If I had the time, I **would do** my homework.

If you told me the truth, I **would believe** you.

The "if" of hypothetical expressions can be implicit:

In your position (= if I were you), I **wouldn't stay** here!



TEST – Build a sentence with all these words:

- rich / would / If / buy / a / house / were / big / I
- said / like / come / She / would / not / to / she
- could / I / big / would / if / give / you / a / ring / I

ANSWERS 1. If I were rich, I would buy a big house. 2. She said she would not like to come. 3. I would give you a big ring if I could.