

# 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.

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

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

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

## 100.4 Complete the sentences. Use your own ideas.

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