

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Activity: forming, asking and answering questions, writing sentences, controlled and freer practice

Focus

Second conditional

Aim

To ask and answer second conditional questions about hypothetical situations.

Preparation

Make one copy of the cards for every 20 students and cut as indicated.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

35 minutes

Introduction

In this second conditional questions activity, students ask their classmates what they would do in various hypothetical situations. Students then write a second conditional sentence about each person's answer.

Procedure

As a lead into the activity, write the following question on the board:

What would you do if the next class was cancelled?

Ask different students what they would do and have them reply using the second conditional.

Explain to the students that they are going to use the second conditional to ask their classmates what they would do in various hypothetical situations.

Give each student a card.

Students then stand up and ask another student what they would do in the situation on their card, e.g. 'What would you do if you won the lottery?'

Students then go back to their desk and write a second conditional sentence about the person's answer, e.g. 'If Alex won the lottery, he would buy a Lamborghini'.

Students then exchange their card with a classmate and the process is repeated.

This continues until everybody has written at least ten sentences.

Afterwards, have a class feedback session. Go through the situations and have the students say what their classmates would do.

As an extension, students use one of the situations they were asked about and imagine that it actually happened. Students write a short account of what happened and what they did. They then read their accounts to the class.

Note: This resource can be edited using a PDF editor.

What would you do if...?

a shopkeeper gives you too much change

you win the lottery

someone steals your wallet

you only have one day to live

your son or daughter starts smoking

a waiter is rude to you

you see a snake in your bathroom

an alien spaceship lands in your garden

you accidentally break someone's window,
but no one sees

you get lost in the desert

you find out that a friend has lied to you

you see a million dollars in your bank
account

an earthquake destroys your house

you are invisible for a day

you lose all your money on holiday

your car breaks down on the motorway

you find a gold watch on the floor

your dog eats your homework

someone gives you the answers
to an exam

you crash your friend's car