

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

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 the money, ...



DAN

If	I you, etc.	had/knew/lived (etc.) ..., didn't have / didn't know (etc.) ..., were ..., could ...,	I you, etc.	would ... wouldn't ... could ... couldn't ...
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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.
- Emily 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 **don't** have a car, so we **can't** travel much)

If (I) was/were ...

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

I **wouldn't** go out if I **were** you.

- 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)



Compare:

if I have / if it is, etc.

- I want to 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)

if I had / if it was, etc.

- I want to 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 this 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.

Exercises

98.1 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 don't have 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, maybe 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.

98.2 Put the verb in the correct form.

- If he had the money, he would buy a fast car. (he/have)
- Hannah 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 didn't tell 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 closer to Miami, we would go there more often. (we/live)
- I'm sorry 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 my car broke down, what to do. (I/not/know)
- If you could change one thing in the world, what? (you/change)

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

we (have) a bigger house
we (buy) a bigger house
we (have) some pictures on the wall
it (be) a little cheaper

every day (be) the same
the air (be) cleaner
I (watch) it
I (be) bored

- I'd buy that jacket if it was a little cheaper
- If there was a good movie 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,

98.4 Complete the sentences. Use your own ideas.

- I'd be happier if I had less work
- 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