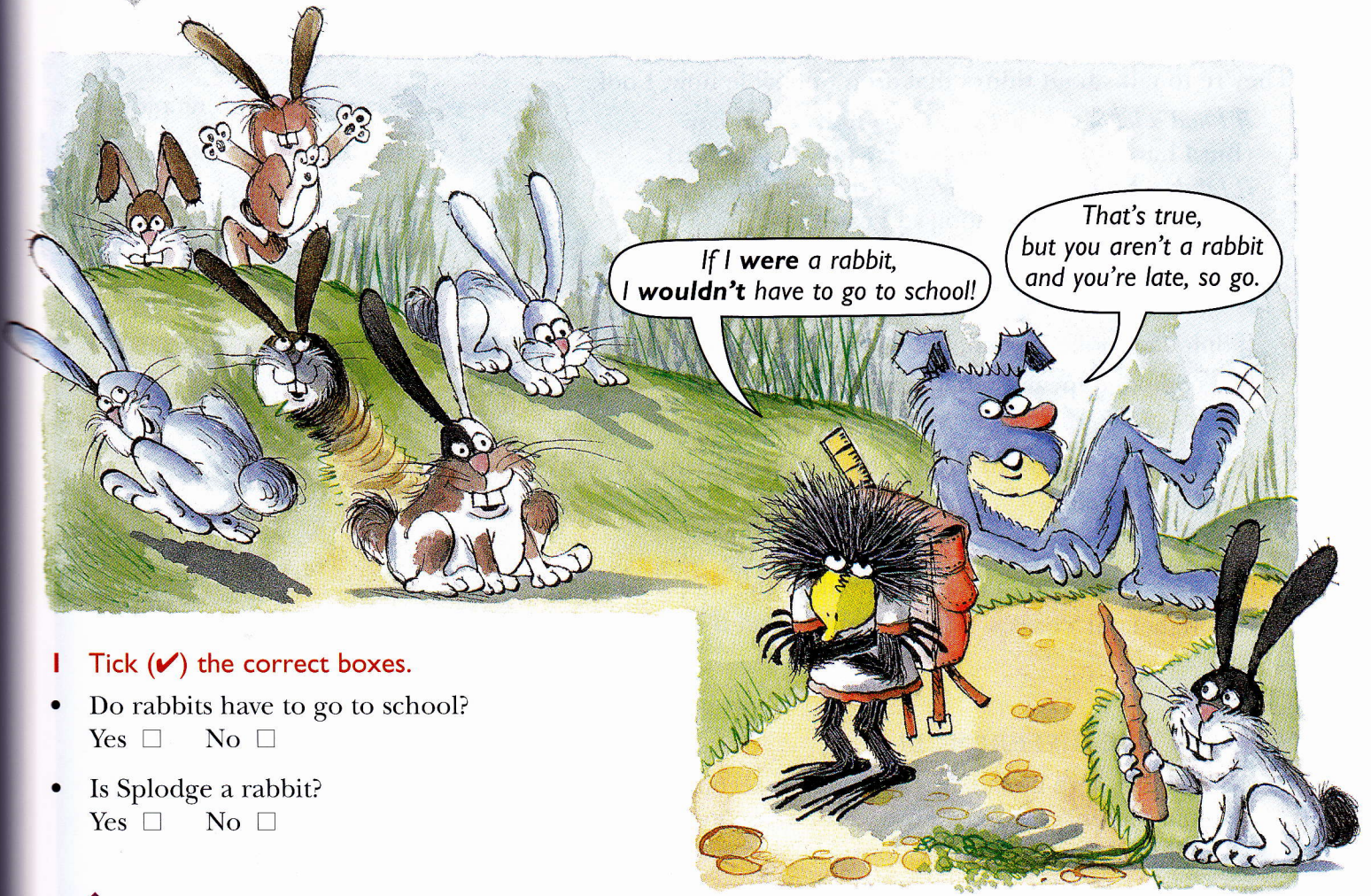


Second conditional 2



1 Tick (✓) the correct boxes.

- Do rabbits have to go to school?
Yes No
- Is Splodge a rabbit?
Yes No

G GRAMMAR

REMEMBER!

You can use second conditional sentences to talk about the future. They're to talk about things that you don't think will happen.

They have two halves.

if half (past simple)	would/wouldn't half
<i>If I went to the moon,</i>	<i>I'd build a house there.</i>
= I go to the moon. →	I build a house.
<i>If I met a monster,</i>	<i>I wouldn't be scared.</i>
= I meet a monster. →	I'm not scared.

See Chapter 23.

2 Fill in the gaps.

- ▶ If Splodge learnt..... (learn) English, he'd get a good job.
- 1 If he (get) a good job, he'd earn lots of money.
- 2 If he (earn) lots of money, he'd spend it.
- 3 If he (spend) it, he wouldn't have any left.
- 4 If he (not have) any money, he'd ask Tumble for some.

A

You can also use second conditionals to talk about *the present*. They're to talk about things that aren't possible now. Look:

If I had a lot of money, I'd go to the cinema every day.
(But I haven't got a lot of money now, so I can't.)
If I didn't have to go to school, I'd read comics all day.
(But I have to go to school, so I can't.)

3 Read the sentences. Answer the questions.

- If Splodge spoke French, he'd get good marks at school.

Does Splodge speak French now?

Yes No

- 1 If Ruff wasn't an inventor, he'd be a shop assistant.

Is Ruff an inventor?

Yes No

- 2 If Mabel didn't have a car, she'd walk to the shops.

Has Mabel got a car?

Yes No

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

Be careful! The verb **be** behaves strangely in second conditional sentences. You can use **were/weren't** or **was/wasn't** for **I, he, she, and it**. Look:

If I were a rabbit, I'd run in the fields all day.
If I was a rabbit, I'd run in the fields all day.
(But I'm not a rabbit, so I don't.)

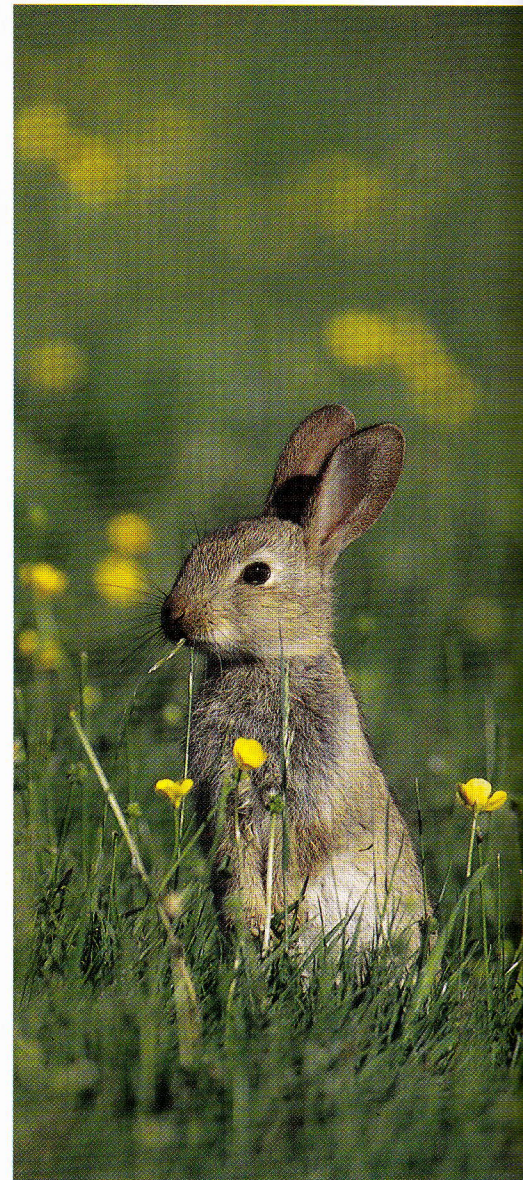
If Tumble weren't so lazy, he'd get more done.
If Tumble wasn't so lazy, he'd get more done.
(But he is lazy, so he doesn't.)

People often use **were** after **I**, especially to tell somebody what they think they should do. They say **If I were you**.

Look:

If I were you, I'd take more exercise.
= I think you should take more exercise.

If I were you, I'd go on holiday more often.
= I think you should go on holiday more often.





PRACTICE

4

a Match the two halves of each sentence.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| ▶ If Splodge spoke Japanese, | she'd have better teeth. |
| 1 If Ruff lived at the North Pole, | he'd have more penfriends. |
| 2 If Mabel didn't have a tortoise, | he'd go to Japan. |
| 3 If Splodge wrote more letters, | he'd buy one. |
| 4 If Mildred ate less chocolate, | she'd be lonely. |
| 5 If Tumble didn't have a newspaper, | he'd be very cold. |
-
- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 6 If you read more books, | they'd fly to Jamaica. |
| 7 If they had an aeroplane, | she wouldn't be thirsty. |
| 8 If we knew aliens existed, | you'd know a lot more. |
| 9 If I bought fewer sweets, | we'd be frightened. |
| 10 If she drank more water, | I'd have more money to spend. |

b Now make endings of your own for these sentences.

- ▶ If I spoke Dutch, *I'd go to Holland for a holiday.*
- 1 If I lived in America,
 - 2 If I had a car,
 - 3 If I read more books,
 - 4 If I didn't drink water,
 - 5 If I didn't have a pencil,
 - 6 If I had a helicopter,
 - 7 If I knew an alien,
 - 8 If I understood every English word,
 - 9 If I got more pocket money,
 - 10 If I went to a different school,

5 Write sentences. Use the past simple in the if half and would or wouldn't in the other half.

▶ have a lot of money → go to Australia
If I had a lot of money, I'd go to Australia.

1 live in Australia → see a lot of kangaroos
.....
.....

2 never do my homework → get bad marks
.....
.....

3 speak ten languages → work as a translator
.....
.....

4 have a pet parrot → teach it to talk
.....
.....

5 eat sweets all the time → have good teeth
.....
.....

6 speak Italian → visit Rome
.....
.....

7 not have a dictionary → borrow one
.....
.....

8 go to bed early every night → be tired
.....
.....

9 know my favourite film star's address → write to him
.....
.....

10 hate peanut butter → eat it
.....
.....

6 a Write what you'd do if you were the things in the list below. Use if I were ...

- a baby ✓ an elephant a teacher taller
a rabbit older a millionaire a film star
extremely clever an alien only a metre tall

▶ *If I were a baby, I'd sleep a lot of the time.*
If I were a baby, I wouldn't go to school.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

b Work with a partner. Take turns to ask and answer these questions.

What would you do if you were ...

- the head teacher? a ghost?
the cleverest person on earth? a pop star?
an inventor?

▶ Partner A *What would you do if you were the head teacher?*

Partner B *I'd build a gym. What would you do?*

7 All these people have got problems. Tell them what to do.
Use **If I were you**.

► My tooth hurts.

If I were you, I'd go to the dentist's.

1 I eat too many sweets.

2 I'm too hot.

3 I can't understand Maths.

4 I haven't got enough money.

5 I've forgotten my friend's birthday.

6 I've lost my dog.

7 I've got a headache.

8 I always wake up late.

9 I don't know anything about dinosaurs.

10 I don't like any of my clothes.



8 Ask your teacher if you can play a class game. One pupil thinks of a problem and tells the class what it is. The rest of the class suggests as many things as possible. Play the game like this:

- Pupil A *I've broken my mother's favourite vase.*
- Pupil B *If I were you, I wouldn't tell her.*
- Pupil C *If I were you, I'd buy one that's exactly the same.*
- Pupil D *If I were you, I'd say the dog broke it.*
- Pupil E *If I were you, I'd leave home and stay with a friend.*