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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If</th>
<th>had / knew / lived / went (etc.) ... , didn’t have / didn’t know (etc.) ... , were ... , could ... ,</th>
<th>I you it they etc.</th>
<th>would(n’t)</th>
<th>buy ... be ... have ... go ... etc.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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)

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)

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.

if we go / if I have / if I can etc. → Unit 99
Exercises

Unit 100

100.1 Complete the sentences.

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

100.2 Put the verb in the correct form.

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

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

100.4 Complete the sentences. Use your own ideas.

1. I'd be happier if ______ I could get a better job ______.
2. If I could go anywhere in the world, ______.
3. I wouldn't be very happy if ______.
4. I'd buy ______ if ______.
5. If I saw an accident in the street, ______.
6. The world would be a better place if ______.