Conditional Clauses Grammar Presentation

Type Second

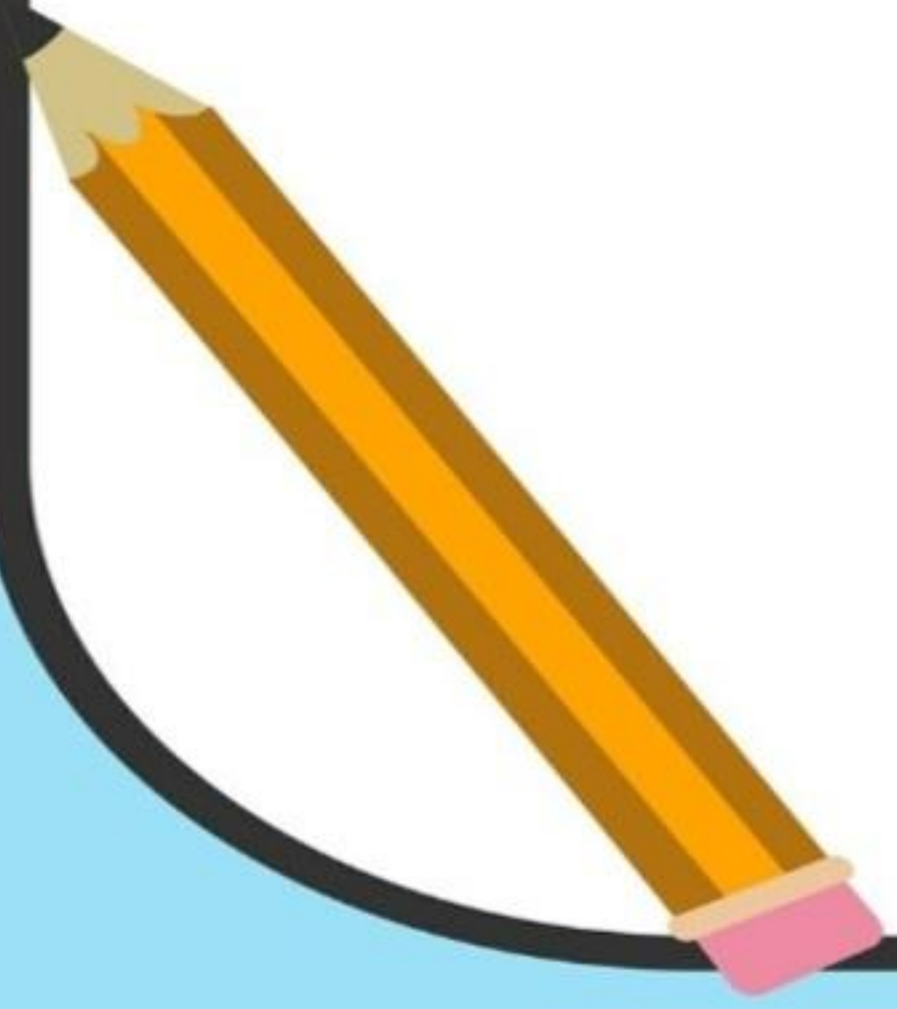Part 2

What's the Second Conditional?

Second Conditional or Type 2 expresses a situation which is unlikely to happen in present or future. We use it to talk about **imaginary** or **unreal situations in present or future**.

For example...

If I were at home now, I'd lie in front of TV like a couch potato now. *(I am not at home now. I'm imagining that I am at home, and imagining the consequence.)*

If she had the tickets, she'd go to the concert tonight.*(She doesn't have the tickets so she can't go to the concert tonight.)*

If Maggie didn't have any homework assignments, she'd play basketball with her friends now.*(Maggie has some homework assignments so she can't go out to play basketball.)*

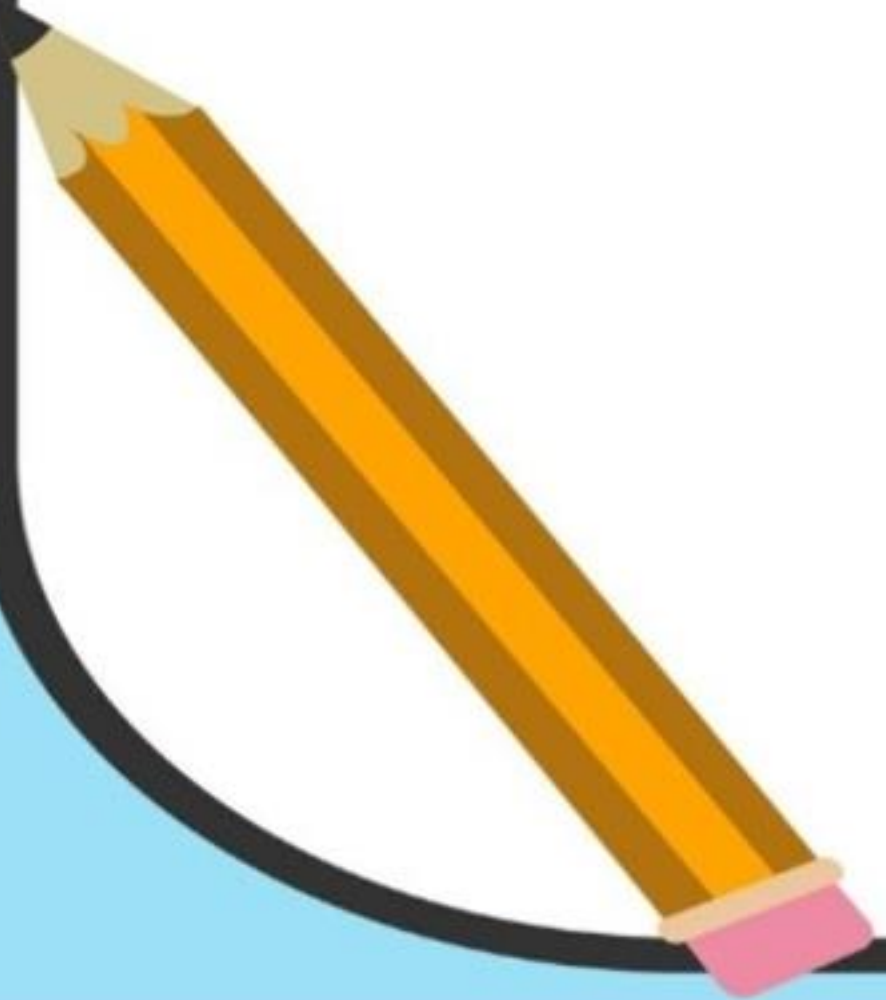# How do we form Second Conditionals?

We use *past simple tense* in the first clause *and* **would** in the second clause.

for example...

If there *were* some bananas, we *would make/'d make* a banana cake now.

If their plane *didn't have* a problem in its engines, they *would take off/'d take off* much earlier.

Note: We can use **were** instead of **was** in second conditional clauses. However, in modern English it is possible to use **was**.

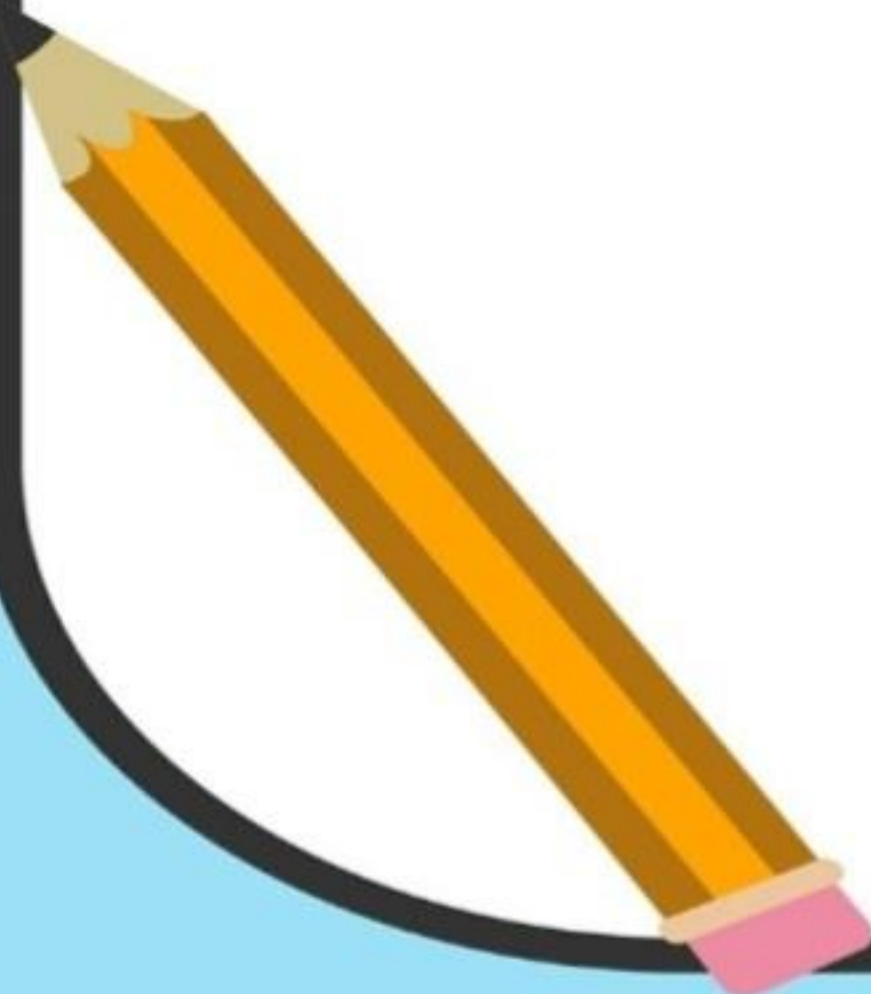# Are there any other forms used in the Second Conditional ?

You can use **could** or **might** instead of *would* in the result clause.

Ability: If you knew two languages, you **could** have a nice job.

Permission: If the boss approved your request, you **could** go on holiday tomorrow.

Possibility: If Tom spoke to Mary, she **might** forgive him.

Note: When we use **might** in the result clause, we are talking about a possible result, and **would** expresses a certain result.
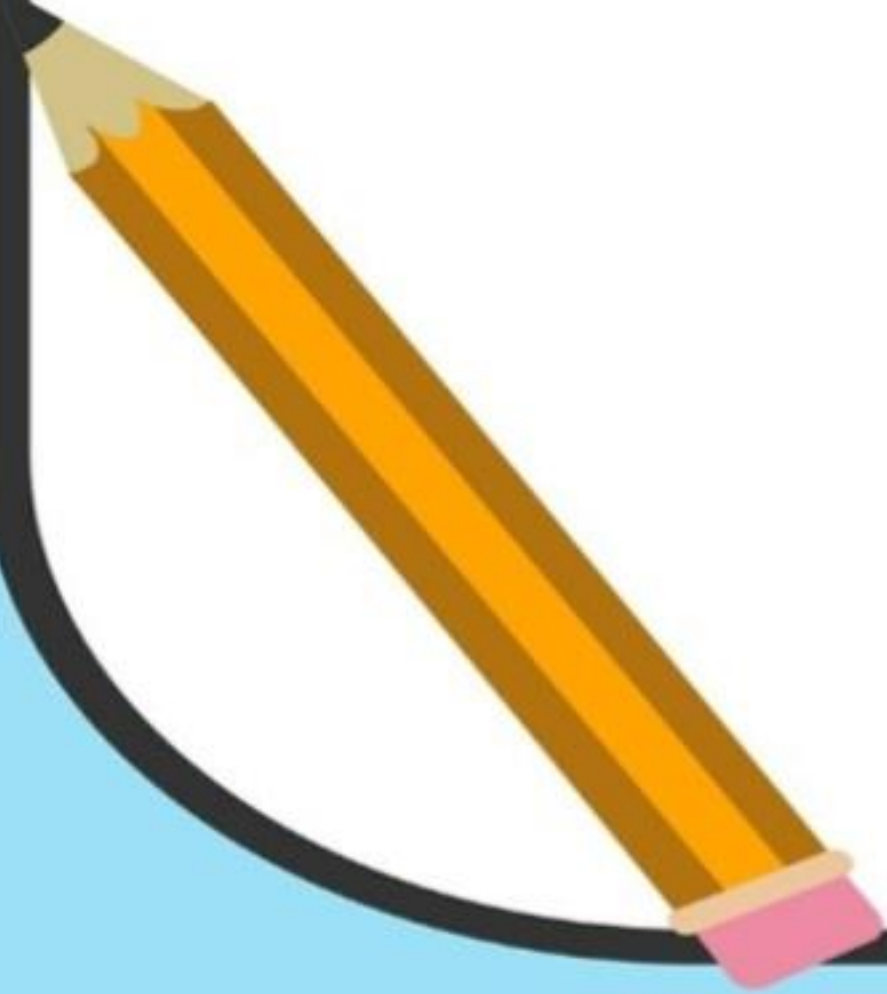
A possible result: If Tom spoke to Mary, she **might** forgive him.

A certain result: If Tom spoke to Mary, she **would/'d** forgive him.

You can also use **past continuous** or **continuous form** both in the "*if*" and "*resuIt* clauses".

- Look at the rain! If I **were walking** on the street, I'd be wet all over.

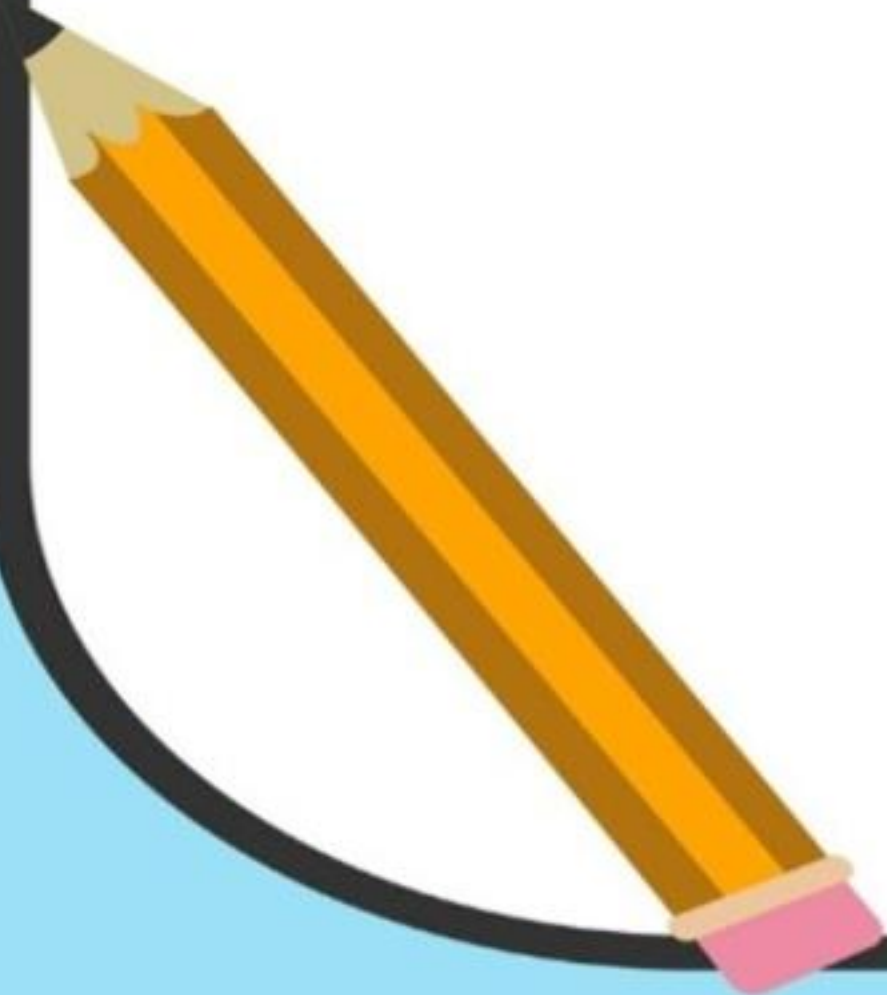- If I didn't have a visa, I **wouldn't be living** in the USA now.

What's the difference between the *Second* and the *First Conditional*?

The main difference between them is the point of speaker. It's subjunctive.

For example...

If Tim plays basketball every day, he'll be in the school team. *(The speaker thinks it's likely to happen. "Playing basketball every day" condition should be met.)*

If Tim played basketball every day, he'd be in the school team. *(The speaker states that Tim doesn't play basketball every day and getting into the school team for him is very unlikely to happen.)*

Visit [conditionals online resource pack](#) for more exercises.