

-ia	-ia
-iamos	-ias
-ians	-ias
-ian	

Most verbs are regular in the conditional tense. In fact, the future and the conditional tenses share the same irregular verbs. To regularly form verbs in the conditional tense, the infinitive itself is the stem, and you then add the appropriate tense ending:

### Regular Verbs

Sentences that employ the conditional tense followed by a hypothetical *if* clause (e.g., *if I were; if you had, if we saw, etc.*) require the use of the subjunctive following the *if* clause. As we have not yet covered the subjunctive, none of the examples or exercises in this unit will include sentences containing a hypothetical *if* clause.

They would spend the money (but you hid it).

They wouldn't sing this song (because the lyrics are stupid).

I would go (if I were you).

Note that when using the conditional tense, there will usually be a "but" or an "if," or some other reason given to explain why or why not the action would be completed. At times this reason is implied or simply understood, as in the following examples:

I would call her, *but* she was rude at the party.

I would eat in that restaurant, *but* it's too expensive.

Would you call me *if* I gave you my number?

He would play pro basketball *if* he were taller.

The inherent feature of the conditional tense is that some condition is *not* being met, and that *if* it were met, a certain action *would* take place. Sometimes this condition is stated: (if he weren't so busy).

The conditional tense expresses the feeling of future uncertainty, generally translated into the English "would + verb." It differs from the future tense, which expresses future certainty (He *will be* here), in that it suggests probability or possibility were some condition met: He *would* be here (but he's sick) or He *would be* here (if he weren't so busy).

## The Conditional Tense

Unit 4

TENSE: Conditional  
 TIME: Refers to the  
 hypothetical future.  
 KEY PHRASE: "Would"  
 STRUCTURE: Simple  
 tense; infinitive  
 + ending

hablar	(I would speak, you would speak, etc.) hablaríamos hablarías hablaría
comer	(I would eat, you would eat, etc.) comeríamos comerías comería
vivir	(I would live, you would live, etc.) viviríamos vivirías viviría

examples:

**Yo compraría** el vestido, pero no tengo suficiente dinero. *I would buy* the dress, but I don't have enough money.  
**?Cuándo iríamos?** *When would we go?*  
**Estarías** allí a las diez, pero tenéis que estudiar. *You would be there* at ten, but you have to study.  
**?Comerías** en ese restaurante? *Would you eat* in that restaurant?  
**Nadie dormiría** allí. *No one would sleep* there.  
**Ellos no cantarían** esta canción. *They wouldn't sing* this song.

Place an X by all the things you would do if you won the lottery worth \$25,000,000.

1. Renunciaría al trabajo.
2. Daría parte del dinero a los pobres.
3. Viajaría por el mundo.
4. Depositaría todo el dinero en el banco.
5. Me mudaría a una casa enorme y muy elegante.
6. Compraría regalos para mi familia y todos mis amigos.
7. Celebraría el premio con mis amigos en un buen restaurante y pagaría todo.
8. Compraría un coche nuevo.
9. Escribiría un libro sobre mi vida.
10. No cambiaría ningún aspecto de mi vida.

**ejercicio** II-4-1

1. I would eat the cookies but I'm on a diet (*estar a dieta*).
2. Would she marry (*casarse con*) John?
3. Where would you go?

4. They wouldn't live in that house because it's haunted (*embujada*). \_\_\_\_\_

5. Would you (*pl. form.*) deliver (*entregar*) the newspapers to our house? \_\_\_\_\_

6. If I teach this class, you (*pl. form.*) would be my students. \_\_\_\_\_

7. I'm not going to give them the money because they would lose it. \_\_\_\_\_

8. We would change the words of the song, but it would be too difficult. \_\_\_\_\_

9. I'd get up but my leg is sore. \_\_\_\_\_

10. I know that they would give you the money that you need. \_\_\_\_\_

11. Would you buy a used car from this man? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Who would think such a thing (*tal cosa*)? \_\_\_\_\_

13. Why wouldn't he shave (*afeitarse*) with that razor (*la navaja*)? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Why would anybody read this? \_\_\_\_\_

15. I wouldn't play the piano in front of a crowd (*la multitud*). \_\_\_\_\_

### Irregular Verbs

The conditional and the future tenses share the same irregular verbs.\* The conditional endings remain the same (*ia, ias, ia, iamos, iais, ian*); however, the infinitive is not retained entirely. Listed below are the twelve standard verbs that are irregular in both tenses. Each is followed by the first person, singular (*yo*) form of that verb in the conditional.

\*Refer to the unit on the future tense for a more complete listing of irregular verbs (derivatives of the twelve standard verbs listed below).

Group 1: Infinitive stem remains the same, but the final vowel of its ending is dropped.

caber	to fit, have enough room	yo cabría
haber	auxiliary verb meaning "to have"	yo habría
poder	to be able to	yo podría
querer	to want	yo querría
saber	to know a fact; to know how	yo sabría

Group 2: Infinitive stem remains the same, but the final vowel of its ending is dropped and replaced with the letter *d*.

poner	to put, place	yo pondría
salir	to leave	yo saldría
tener	to have, hold	yo tendría
valer	to be worth	yo valdría
venir	to come	yo vendría

Group 3: Entirely different stem is used.

decir	to say, tell	yo diría
hacer	to do, make, make out (a check)	yo haría

examples:

Yo le diría a Juan cualquier cosa.  
I would tell John anything.

¿Qué haríamos?  
What would we do?

Sabríais sus nombres.

You would know their names.

Estos anillos no valdrían nada.

These rings wouldn't be worth anything.

¿Cuándo saldrías?

When would you leave?

Nuestro sofá no cabría en ese cuarto.

Our sofa wouldn't fit in that room.

**Hay in the conditional:** The third person singular of *haber* in the conditional, *habría*, is the conditional form of *hay* (there is; there are). Alone (not used as an auxiliary), *habría* translates into "there would be," singular and plural.

examples:

Habría más dinero aquí, pero tuvimos que comprar comida.  
There would be more money here, but we had to buy food.

Juan perdió cinco libros; de otra manera, **habría** traído en el estante.  
John lost five books; otherwise, there would be thirty on the shelf.

11-4-2

ejercicio

Fill in each blank with the appropriate conditional form of the verb.

1. Yo (poner) \_\_\_\_\_ estos libros en ese estante.
2. Tú (poder) \_\_\_\_\_ tocar el violín, pero nunca lo practicas.
3. Juan (tener) \_\_\_\_\_ una fiesta, pero no es su cumpleaños.
4. Esta pulsera (valer) \_\_\_\_\_ mucho, pero no es de oro.

5. ¿Qué (hacer) \_\_\_\_\_ Sherlock Holmes en esta situación?
6. Estas sillas (caber) \_\_\_\_\_ en la sala, pero no en el dormitorio.
7. Nosotros (venir) \_\_\_\_\_ a su fiesta, pero estamos enfermos.
8. (Haber) \_\_\_\_\_ mucha comida, pero Juan estaba aquí anoche y se comió todo.
9. ¿Qué (decir) \_\_\_\_\_ tú en esta situación?
10. Yo no (decir) \_\_\_\_\_ nada.

**ejercicio** II-4-3

1. I would come to your party, but I'm sick. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where would you put these chairs? \_\_\_\_\_
3. This bracelet would be worth more, but it's broken. \_\_\_\_\_
4. What would you (*pl. fam.*) say to that man? \_\_\_\_\_
5. We would have the reception in our house, but there isn't enough room. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you think that Robert would know the answer? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who would be able to do such a thing? \_\_\_\_\_
8. I would want the car, but it isn't my choice. \_\_\_\_\_
9. There would be two dozen eggs in the refrigerator, but we ate four for breakfast. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Would these plates fit into the cabinet? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What would you do during a hurricane? \_\_\_\_\_
12. I wouldn't tell him because he can't keep a secret (*guardar un secreto*). \_\_\_\_\_

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<b>vocabulario</b>	
<p>(to) ask for, request          character          fairy tale          (to) grant          poverty          sadness</p>	<p>pedir          el personaje          el cuento de hadas          conceder          la pobreza          la tristeza</p>
<p>(to) suffer          therefore          war          weight          wish          (to) worry about</p>	<p>sufrir          por eso          la guerra          el peso          el deseo          preocuparse por</p>

When I was young, I loved to read fairy tales. One of my favorite characters was Aladdin because he was always granting people their fantasies in the form of three wishes. What would I do? First, I would ask him for a million wishes, but I know that he wouldn't do that. Therefore, these are my three wishes: 1. My cat would be able to speak, and she and I would have long conversations. 2. I would never have to worry about my weight. 3. And the most important wish is that no one in the world would suffer another minute: there would be no war; there would be no hunger; there would be no poverty; there would be no sadness.

**traducción** II-4-4

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15. I would put the flowers in front of the house, not in back.
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14. I'm not going to give these shoes to Marcos because I know that he wouldn't be able to wear them.
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13. We would make out the check, but there isn't enough (*suficiente*) money in the bank.
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