

Mark Albion (Free Range Studios), What Is "The Good Life" Parable

Introduction

1. What is your idea of "the good life"?
2. Which of the following things are most important? Try to put them in order of importance:

Family
Free Time
Freedom of Speech
Good Health
Money

Video

1. You are going to watch a video about "the good life". Read the following statements and mark them *True* or *False* while you watch:

- a) The businessman goes on vacation to a busy tourist destination.
- b) It took the fisherman a long time to catch the fish in his boat.
- c) The fisherman catches only the necessary fish to survive.
- d) The fisherman has an extremely stressful life.
- e) The fisherman has taught his sons to fish too.
- f) The businessman went to university to study for a PhD.
- g) The businessman gives the fisherman some advice on how to grow his business.
- h) According to the businessman, the fisherman would take about 50 years to become rich.
- i) The businessman convinces the fisherman at the end of the story.

2. What is your opinion about the video? Is the message it delivers realistic?

Grammar - Second Conditional

Look at some excerpts from the video:

"What would I do if I were a millionaire?"

"If you would (=past will) simply spend more time fishing, you would soon earn enough money to buy a bigger boat."

"And with a bigger boat, you'd soon catch enough fish to buy a whole fleet."

The examples above are second conditional constructions. The second conditional is used to talk about **hypothetical situations** in the **present** or the **future**.

If I was rich,	I would buy a big boat.
If + subject + past ,	subject + would + verb (infinitive without "to")

- When you use the verb *to be* you can use the past simple (*If I was...*), but it is also correct to use *were*, (*If I were..., If you were..., If he were... etc.*).
- You can change the order of the clauses: *I would buy a boat if I were rich.*
- You can use the second conditional to give advice like in the video.
- Another way of giving advice using the second conditional is *If I were you I'd...*

Second Conditional - Speaking Activity

You are going to use the second conditional to give advice, just like in the video. Remember the second conditional can only be used to talk about present or future situations so don't use examples with the past tense in this exercise.

First prepare some problems using the prompts in the first column. Read your problems to a partner and listen to their advice. Make sure you use the second conditional to give advice and make a note of what the advice is in the second column.

What is the problem?	What is the advice?
1. You have a problem with your car, what is it?	
2. A colleague at work is really annoying you at the moment, what are they doing?	
3. You have a big exam coming up but you are finding it hard to study, what is the problem?	
4. You are having a birthday party on Saturday but you're worried about something, what is it?	
5. You are currently experiencing a medical problem, what is it?	
6. You are going on vacation to Australia next month, what is your biggest worry about going there?	