

Week 15

Supplementary material

English for migrant activists

WHAT IS CONDITIONAL SENTENCE TYPE II?

The Second Conditional (Conditional Type II) is used to talk about unreal or hypothetical situations in the present or future. It describes an imaginary situation and its possible result.

Structure:

- **Positive:** If + past simple, would + base verb
 - *If she learned English, she would find a better job.*
 - *If they applied for asylum, they would receive support.*
- **Negative:** If + past simple, would not (wouldn't) + base verb
 - *If he did not submit his documents, he wouldn't get a visa.*
 - *If we didn't attend the meeting, we wouldn't know our rights.*
- **Question:** If + past simple, would + subject + base verb?
 - *If I joined the protest, would I be safe?*
 - *If she studied, would she pass the citizenship test?*

Common Uses:

- Talking about hypothetical situations: *If we had more support, we would help more migrants.*
- Giving advice: *If I were you, I would talk to a lawyer.*
- Expressing wishes: *If she had a work permit, she would apply for a job.*

Examples Related to Migrant Issues

1. *If you spoke English, you would communicate more easily.*
2. *If the workers had better contracts, they would not face exploitation.*
3. *If she knew about the program, she would apply for help.*

4. *If the government supported migrants, they would have better living conditions.*
5. *If we had enough money, we would create a new shelter.*
6. *If he didn't face discrimination, he would feel safer.*
7. *Would you join a migrant rights campaign if you had the chance?*

Tip:

- The "if" clause states the imaginary condition, and the main clause shows the hypothetical result.
- We use "were" instead of "was" with "I," "he," "she," and "it" in formal English: *If she were a citizen, she would vote.*

Practice Exercises

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct Second Conditional form

1. If she _____ (not face) discrimination, she _____ (feel) more confident.
2. They _____ (get) better jobs if they _____ (speak) the local language.
3. If we _____ (have) more resources, we _____ (support) more migrant families.
4. He _____ (not struggle) if he _____ (have) a work permit.
5. _____ you _____ (move) to another country if you had the opportunity?

B. Rewrite the sentences in negative form

1. If the migrants attended the workshop, they would learn their rights. → _____
2. If she applied for the job, she would get hired. → _____
3. If we organized a meeting, people would join. → _____
4. If he studied, he would pass the test. → _____
5. If they moved to a safer place, they would feel better. → _____

C. Discussion Questions

- What would happen if more people supported migrant rights?
- If migrants had better housing, how would their lives change?

- Can you think of a situation where the Second Conditional is useful when discussing migrant issues?