

THE CONDITIONAL

USE

- To express what someone **would** do in the unlikely event of something happening
- To describe wishful thinking
- To make a request
- As a polite form of request

This tense can be remembered as the *would* tense. An example of a sentence in the conditional tense would be:

I *would* buy a house and two cars.

FORM

The conditional tense is formed by:

- 1) the imperfect subjunctive of the verb *werden*
- +
- 2) the infinitive of the verb

EXAMPLES

Ich *würde* ins Theater gehen. = I *would* go to the theatre.
Du *würdest* mir helfen. = You *would* help me.
Er/Sie/Es *würde* morgen ankommen. = He/She/It *would* arrive tomorrow.
Wir *würden* lieber hier bleiben. = We *would* prefer to stay here.
Ihr *würdet* gern nach Frankreich fahren. = You *would* like to go to France.
Würden Sie lieber Tee trinken? = *Would* you (formal) prefer to drink tea?
Sie *würden* bei der Arbeit helfen. = They *would* help with the work.

A sentence is in the **conditional** when it includes **would** and **if** or **if** and **would**:

If I had a lot of money, I **would** buy a car.

or

I **would** buy a car **if** I had a lot of money.

In German, you use the conditional in the main clause (I **would** buy a car) and the conditional **or** the imperfect subjunctive (subjunctive II *or Konjunktiv II* in German) in the **if (wenn)** clause (**if** I had a lot of money).

For One-to-One, Skype or Small Group Tutorials please visit Tutorialsindublin.ie

EXAMPLES

Ich *würde* ein Auto kaufen, *wenn* ich viel Geld *haben würden*.

or

Ich *würde* ein Auto kaufen, *wenn* ich viel Geld *hätte*.

I would buy a car if I had a lot of money.

Ich *würde* ins Kino gehen, *wenn* es ein guter Film *geben würde*.

or

Ich *würde* ins Kino gehen, *wenn* es ein guter Film *gäbe*.

I would go to the cinema if there were a good film.

For One-to- One, Skype or Small Group Tutorials please visit [Tutorialsindublin.ie](https://www.tutorialsindublin.ie)