112 Periodo ipotetico di secondo tipo (**If he was ...**)

1 Osserva questa frase:

FATTO: *He **doesn't work** hard. So he **doesn't do** well.*

Ora osserva quest'altra frase:

If + PAST SIMPLE	+ **would**/**'d**
*If he **worked** harder,*	*he **would do** better.*
(= Se lavorasse di più, farebbe meglio.)	

Si usa **if** + Past Simple + **would** per parlare del presente e immaginare una situazione diversa da quella attuale. Questa costruzione si chiama periodo ipotetico di secondo tipo (= the Second Conditional):

Un altro esempio è qualcuno che non ha abbastanza denaro per comprare una nuova macchina e dice:

*I'd **buy** a new car if I **had** enough money.*

Nota che non si mette la virgola prima di **if**.

2 Si può usare lo stesso tipo di frase per parlare di una situazione improbabile nel futuro:

If + PAST SIMPLE	+ **would**/**'d**
*If I **won** a lot of money,*	*I'd **buy** a big house.*
(= Se vincessi molti soldi, comprerei una casa grande.)	

3 Nota le forme negative con **didn't** e **wouldn't**:

*If I **didn't live** in Italy, I'd like to live in America.*
*If more people used public transport, there **wouldn't** be so much pollution.*

4 Si possono usare **might** e **could** invece di **would**:

*If I didn't have other plans, I **could** come with you.*
(= ..., potrei ...)
*If he told someone his problems, he **might** feel better.* (= ... è possibile che si senta meglio.)

5 Dopo **if**, si può usare **were** con **I/he/she/it**:

*If I **were** (OPPURE **was**) a racing driver, I'd drive for Ferrari.* (= Se fossi un pilota, correrei per la Ferrari.)
*If he **were** taller, he could join the police.*

Was è più usato nell'inglese colloquiale.

6 Spesso si usa l'espressione **If I were you** (= Se fossi in te) per dare un consiglio a qualcuno:

*If I **were you**, I'd go to the police.*
(NON ~~If I was you, ...~~)

Esercizi

A Completa queste frasi.

0 If Sally lived in Brighton, .*she would be*............................. (she/be) near her parents.

0 Fred would read more if ..*he didn't work*........................... (he/not/work) so hard.

1 If Elizabeth didn't have to work in the evenings, ... (she/go) to concerts.

2 Susan wouldn't go to work by car if .... (she/live) near a train station.

3 Alan wouldn't be overweight if .... (he/not/eat) so much.

4 If Peter didn't live in a flat, ... (he/have) a dog.

5 Pam would definitely learn French if .... (she/get) a job in France.

6 If Mark wanted to be healthy, ... (he/not/smoke).

B Nei prossimi anni:

> It is unlikely that astronauts will visit Mars.
> ~~It is unlikely that governments will stop buying guns.~~
> It is unlikely that doctors will find a cure for cancer.
> It is unlikely that they will discover oil in Ireland.
> It is unlikely that young people will stop buying pop records.

Adesso utilizza le previsioni nel riquadro per completare le frasi.

0 If ..*governments stopped buying guns* .... , the world would be safer.

1 If .... , the Irish would be very happy.

2 If .... , this terrible disease would disappear.

3 If .... , the popular music industry would disappear.

4 If .... , we would learn a lot about the planet.

C Immagina come la vita oggi potrebbe essere migliore. Completa le frasi usando le parole tra parentesi e qualsiasi altra parola necessaria.

0 People don't do enough exercise, so there is a lot of heart disease.
   (more, less) If people ....*did more exercise* .... , there
   ..*would be less heart disease.*

1 There are too many cars. The city is very polluted.
   (fewer) If there .... , then the city wouldn't be so polluted.

2 People drive too fast, so there are a lot of accidents.
   (more slowly) If people .... , then there would be fewer accidents.

3 People watch too much TV, so they don't have much time for reading.
   (more) If people watched less TV, they ....

4 People have bad teeth because they eat too many sweets.
   (fewer) People would have better teeth if they ....

5 Not enough people travel by bus, so the roads are crowded.
   (more) If .... , then the roads would be less crowded.

6 People haven't got enough time to cook, so they eat a lot of 'fast food'.
   (more, less) If people .... , they ....

D Utilizza le affermazioni tra parentesi per completare le frasi. Usa **wouldn't be able to**.

0 (Cats have very good eyes; that's why they can see in the dark.)
   If cats didn't have very good eyes, they ..*wouldn't be able to see in the dark.*

1 (Bats have very good ears; that's how they move about so easily in the dark.)
   If bats didn't have very good ears, they ....

2 (Dogs are able to recognize people because they have a good sense of smell.)
   Dogs .... if they didn't have a good sense of smell.

3 (We can train dogs; that's why they are able to help blind people.)
   If we couldn't train dogs, they ....

4 (Chameleons change colour. That's how they are able to disguise and protect themselves.)
   If chameleons didn't change colour, ...

5 (Horses can pull heavy loads because they are very strong.)
   .... if they weren't very strong.