



3 Go back to the article and answer the following questions.

a) Why half of mankind would not notice an Internet breakdown?

Because almost 4 billion people have no access to the Internet worldwide.

b) How would the life of Internet users change? Find at least three examples.

No Google Maps to find our way in a strange city. No credit card to pay for our expenses. Social media users would start calling each other on the phone. People would write checks.

c) Why would it be very difficult for an Internet shutdown to happen?

The Internet is the global network of many other computer networks. It doesn't depend on a single machine. Even if one part of it went offline, others would remain functional.

4 Match each problem with its possible solution. Can you think of other solutions? Share your ideas with your classmates.

- a) If cell phones didn't work,
- b) If we couldn't transfer files through Wi-Fi,
- c) If credit cards stopped working,
- d) If we couldn't send documents via e-mail,

(c) we would pay in cash.

(a) we would use payphones.

(d) we would have to print them and send them by mail.

(b) we would use flash drives or cables.

5 Answer these questions. Then, discuss your ideas in small groups. *Answers will vary.*

a) How often do you use the Internet?

b) How would you feel if you had to spend a whole week without Internet? What would you do instead?

c) How do you think your community (school, local shops, offices, market, traffic, etc.) would be affected if there was no Internet?

d) Do you ever worry about an Internet breakdown? Why?





Language in use

Sugestão de abordagem do conteúdo.

Second conditional

1 Read these sentences from the article on page 6 and choose the option that best describes the condition they state.

- What if you **woke up** to an unexpected Internet breakdown? [...] The world **wouldn't fall apart**.
- If the internet suddenly **flatlined**, social media users **would start** calling each other on the phone.
- Even if one part of it **went offline**, others **would remain** functional.

- () A condition connected to a rule or a general truth.
- () A possible condition that may happen in the future.
- (x) A hypothetical condition, something which is almost impossible to happen.

We use conditionals to mention the consequence or the result of a certain situation or condition. The examples in activity 1 are all impossible or **unreal conditionals**, also known as **second conditionals**.

There are also **zero** and **first** conditionals, as follows:

- Zero conditional (a rule or general truth): If you boil water, it evaporates.
- First conditional (a possible situation): If I finish my homework, I'll go online.

2 Complete the rules about the second conditional as exemplified in the previous sentences.

- ▶ Second conditionals have two clauses: the **if-clause** (condition) is in the simple **past/present** and the **main clause** (result) is formed with **will/would** + the base form of the main verb.
- ▶ When the if-clause comes first, it's necessary to include a **comma (,)/period (.)** before the main clause. When the main clause comes first, no punctuation is necessary.
- ▶ The order of the clauses **changes/doesn't change** the meaning of the sentence.

When the if-clause includes the verb **be**, it's common to use the form **were** no matter what the subject is. However, it's also possible to use **was**, especially for **he, she, it**. Have a look at these examples.

- If I **were** the president, I would give Internet for free.
- If Lucas **were** a gamer, he would spend the whole day online.
- If Rebecca **was** addicted to the Internet, she wouldn't sleep well at night.



