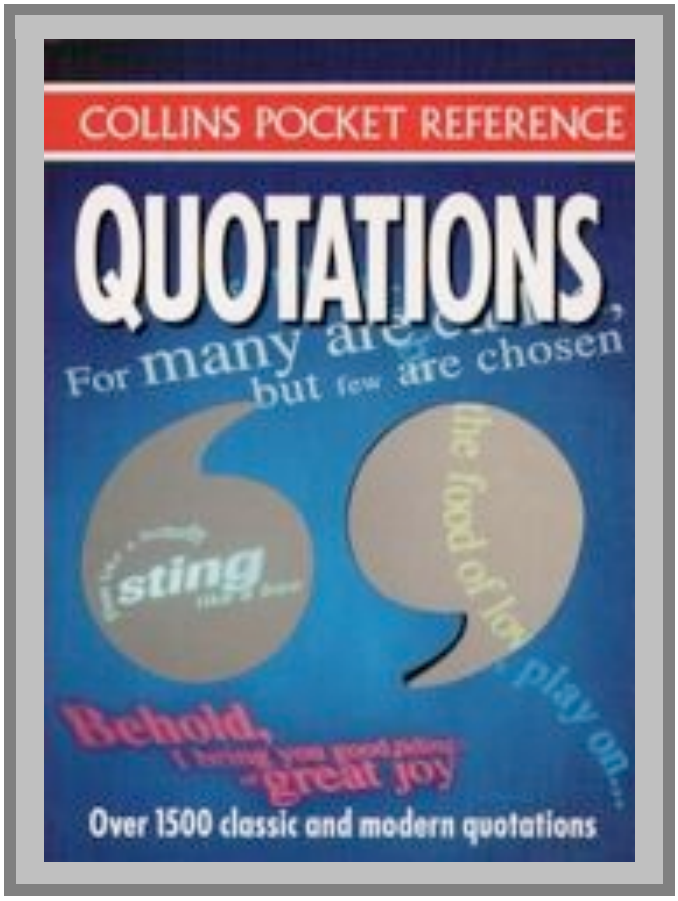
Second conditional quotations

Language level:	Pre-intermediate; Intermediate (A2; B1)
Learner type:	Teens; Adults
Time:	30 minutes
Activity:	Writing sentences
Topic:	Quotations
Language:	Second conditional
Materials:	Worksheet



Preparation, materials and equipment

1. Make a photocopy of the **Incomplete quotations** worksheet on pages 4 and 5 for each student. If possible, photocopy the two sides onto a single A4 sheet.

2. Make a single copy of the **Quotation endings** sheet on page 6 and cut it up as shown. Get ready to stick the texts on the classroom walls.

Lesson plan

1. If possible, introduce the idea of quotations culture by showing students a quotations book or an image of one (see title page for example). Ask students if they like to use quotations and if they can recall any from memory. You could share the following:

   "*I love quotations because it is a joy to find thoughts one might have, beautifully expressed with much authority by someone recognized wiser than oneself.*"

   Marlene Dietrich

2. Tell students that you have 8 incomplete quotations for them. Give out copies of the **Incomplete quotations** worksheet and ask them to attempt to complete them in any way that they like and write ideas in the spaces provided. Circulate and offer grammatical help as and when required.

   Note that you might want to clarify or revise the structure of the second conditional before giving out the worksheet.

If + [**subject**] + past form …	… [**subject**] + would + verb …
[**Subject**] + would + verb …	… if + [**subject**] + past form …

3. Let students share and compare what they have written. Continue to elicit or offer grammatical support whenever required.

4. Quickly stick the 8 real quotation endings randomly around the classroom walls.

5. Ask students to go around the classroom and match the incomplete quotations with the real endings, which they should write on their sheets in the spaces provided.

6. Go over the answers, drill pronunciation, and find out whether or not your students agree with the sentiments expressed in the quotations.

- "*If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament.*"
  Florynce Kennedy
- "*If everyone on earth just stopped breathing for an hour, the greenhouse effect would no longer be a problem.*"
  Jerry Adler
- "*If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him.*"
  Voltaire
- "*If there were no bad people, there would be no good lawyers.*"
  Charles Dickens
- "*If I had no sense of humour, I would long ago have committed suicide.*"
  Muhatma Ghandi
- "*If women didn't exist, all the money in the world would have no meaning.*"
  Aristotle Onassis
- "*If God lived on earth, people would break his windows.*"
  Jewish proverb
- "*If life was fair, Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead.*"
  Johnny Carson

Follow ups

- For homework, ask students to find out about the people behind the quotations.
- Put some of your students' favourite quotations up around the classroom walls, accompanied by pictures of those behind them.
- Introduce students to the website that these quotations were taken from and demonstrate how they can find their own examples: http://www.quotationspage.com/

Incomplete quotations (page 1)

- **"If men could get pregnant, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

- **"If everyone on earth just stopped breathing for an hour, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

- **"If God did not exist, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

- **"If there were no bad people, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

Incomplete quotations (page 2)

- **"If I had no sense of humour, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

- **"If women didn't exist, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

- **"If God lived on earth, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

- **"If life was fair, ...**

Your idea: .....
.....
.....

Actual quotation: .....
.....
.....

Lessonstream.org

Quotation endings

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... it would be necessary to invent him."
Voltaire

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... all the money in the world would have no meaning."
Aristotle Onassis

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... the greenhouse effect would no longer be a problem."
Jerry Adler

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... I would long ago have committed suicide."
Muhatma Ghandi

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... abortion would be a sacrament."
Florynce Kennedy

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... Elvis would be alive and all the impersonators would be dead."
Johnny Carson

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... people would break his windows."
Jewish proverb

- - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - - - - - ✂ - - -

... there would be no good lawyers."
Charles Dickens