

**In the Second Conditional, both "If I was" and "If I were" are technically possible, but they differ slightly in usage:**

*I Heart English 2*



### **1. If I Were**

- **Traditionally considered correct in formal English**, especially in hypothetical or unreal situations.
- Used with the **subjunctive mood**, which is typical in unreal or imaginary conditions.
- Common in set phrases like "If I were you."

#### **Example:**

- If I were rich, I would buy a mansion.
- If I were you, I'd apologise immediately.

### **2. If I Was**

- **More informal and conversational**; widely used in spoken English.
- Often used when the hypothetical condition is less formal or when people aren't strictly following traditional grammar rules.
- Some argue it's less appropriate for purely unreal situations, but it's increasingly accepted in modern usage.

#### **Example:**

- If I was better at cooking, I'd host more dinner parties.
- If I was in your position, I'd feel the same way.

#### **Which to Use?**

- For formal or written contexts, **"If I were"** is preferable.
- In informal or spoken contexts, **"If I was"** is often acceptable and commonly used.
- However, in the fixed expression "If I were you," always use "were."