

# IF I WERE

In the phrase "If I were" , were is the subjunctive form of the verb be. It is used in hypothetical or imaginary situations to say what you would do if they were true, or to give someone advice about what you'd do if you were in their place.

- **If I were** you, I'd probably go. / I'd take the money **if I were** you.
- **If I were** in charge, I'd do things differently.

Technically speaking '**If I was you ...**' is incorrect when used to talk about unreal situations, at least in formal speech and writing. However, it is quite common to hear native speakers use it.

STANDARD ENGLISH	NON-STANDARD FORM
<b>IF I WERE...</b>	<b>IF I WAS ...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>If I were</b> you , I wouldn't care.</li><li>• <b>If I were</b> in charge, I'd do things differently.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>If I was</b> you , I wouldn't care.</li><li>• <b>If I was</b> in charge, I'd do things differently.</li></ul>

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# IF I WAS

"If I was" is correct when used for past situations.

(things that actually happened in the past).

**used to express sth that was true when or if sth else happened**

- If I was late for class, I got into trouble.  
(when/if I was late for class in the past, I got in trouble)

**used to express some uncertainty about the past.**

- I apologize if I wasn't clear.  
(I don't know if I was clear. Maybe I wasn't. If that's the case, I apologize)
- If I was rude to you, I'm sorry.  
(I don't know if I was rude to you. Maybe I was. If that's the case, I'm sorry)