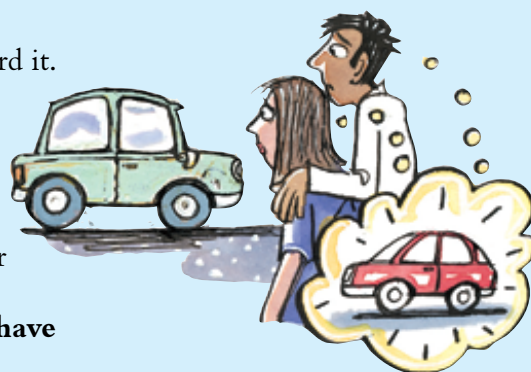


# Would

## A

We use **would** ('d) / **wouldn't** when we imagine a situation or action (= we think of something that is not real):

- It **would be** nice to buy a new car, but we can't afford it.
- I'd **love** to live by the ocean.
- A: Should I tell Chris what happened?  
B: No, I **wouldn't say** anything.  
(= I wouldn't say anything in your situation)



We use **would have** (**done**) when we imagine situations or actions in the past (= things that didn't happen):

- They helped us a lot. I don't know what we **would have done** without their help.
- I didn't tell Sam what happened. He **wouldn't have been** pleased.

Compare **would** (**do**) and **would have** (**done**):

- I **would call** Sue, but I don't have her number. (*now*)  
I **would have called** Sue, but I didn't have her number. (*past*)
- I'm not going to invite them to the party. They **wouldn't come** anyway.  
I didn't invite them to the party. They **wouldn't have come** anyway.

We often use **would** in sentences with **if** (see Units 36–38):

- I **would call** Sue **if** I had her number.
- I **would have called** Sue **if** I'd had her number.

## B

Compare **will** ('ll) and **would** ('d):

- I'll **stay** a little longer. I've got plenty of time.  
I'd **stay** a little longer, but I really have to go now. (so I can't stay longer)
- I'll **call** Sue. I've got her number.  
I'd **call** Sue, but I don't have her number. (so I can't call her)

Sometimes **would** / **wouldn't** is the past of **will** / **won't**.

Compare:

Present	Past
■ Tom: I'll <b>call</b> you on Sunday.	→ Tom said he'd <b>call</b> me on Sunday.
■ Ann: I promise I <b>won't be</b> late.	→ Ann promised that she <b>wouldn't be</b> late.
■ Liz: Darn! The car <b>won't start</b> .	→ Liz was annoyed because her car <b>wouldn't start</b> .

## C

Somebody **wouldn't do** something = he/she refused to do it:

- I tried to warn him, but he **wouldn't listen** to me. (= he refused to listen)
- The car **wouldn't start**. (= it "refused" to start)

You can also use **would** when you talk about things that happened regularly in the past:

- When we were children, we lived by the ocean. In summer, if the weather was nice, we **would** all get up early and go for a swim. (= we did this regularly)
- Whenever Richard was angry, he **would** walk out of the room.

With this meaning, **would** is similar to **used to** (see Unit 17):

- Whenever Richard was angry, he **used to walk** out of the room.

### 34.1 Write sentences about yourself. Imagine things you would like or wouldn't like.

- (a place you'd love to live) I'd love to live by the ocean.
- (a job you wouldn't like to do) \_\_\_\_\_
- (something you would love to do) \_\_\_\_\_
- (something that would be nice to have) \_\_\_\_\_
- (a place you'd like to go to) \_\_\_\_\_

### 34.2 Complete the sentences using **would** + the following verbs (in the correct form):

**be be do do enjoy enjoy have pass stop**

- They helped us a lot. I don't know what we would have done without their help.
- You should go and see the movie. You \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- It's too bad you couldn't come to the concert yesterday. You \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- Do you think I should apply for the job? What \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ in my position?
- I was in a hurry when I saw you. Otherwise, I \_\_\_\_\_ to talk.
- We took a taxi home last night but got stuck in the traffic. It \_\_\_\_\_ quicker to walk.
- Why don't you go and see Claire? She \_\_\_\_\_ very pleased to see you.
- Why didn't you take the exam? I'm sure you \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- In an ideal world, everybody \_\_\_\_\_ enough to eat.

### 34.3 Each sentence on the right follows a sentence on the left. Which follows which?

- ~~I'd like to go to Australia one day.~~
- I wouldn't like to live on a busy street.
- I'm sorry the trip was canceled.
- I'm looking forward to going out tonight.
- I'm glad we didn't go out in the rain.
- I'm not looking forward to the trip.

- It wouldn't have been very pleasant. c
- It would have been fun. \_\_\_\_\_
- ~~It would be nice.~~ \_\_\_\_\_
- It won't be much fun. \_\_\_\_\_
- It wouldn't be very pleasant. \_\_\_\_\_
- It will be fun. \_\_\_\_\_

### 34.4 Write sentences using **promised** + **would** / **wouldn't**.

- I wonder why Laura is late. She promised she wouldn't be late.
- I wonder why Steve hasn't called. He promised \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did you tell Jane what I said? You \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm surprised they didn't wait for us. They \_\_\_\_\_

### 34.5 Complete the sentences. Use **wouldn't** + a suitable verb.

- I tried to warn him, but he wouldn't listen to me.
- I asked Amanda what had happened, but she \_\_\_\_\_ me.
- Paul was very angry about what I'd said and \_\_\_\_\_ to me for two weeks.
- Martina insisted on carrying all her luggage. She \_\_\_\_\_ me help her.

### 34.6 These sentences are about things that happened many times in the past. Complete the sentences using **would** + the following:

**forget help shake share walk**

- Whenever Richard was angry, he would walk out of the room.
- We used to live next to railroad tracks. Every time a train went by, the house \_\_\_\_\_.
- George was a very kind man. He \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ you if you had a problem.
- Brenda was always very generous. She didn't have much, but she \_\_\_\_\_ what she had with everyone else.
- You could never rely on Joe. It didn't matter how many times you reminded him to do something, he \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_.