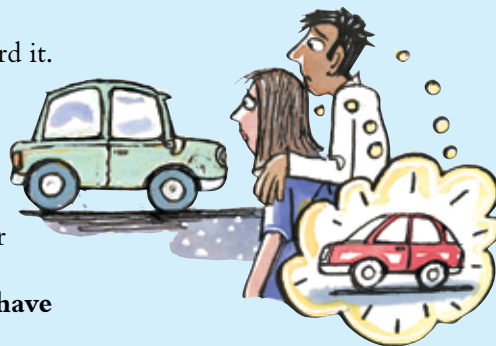


Would

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

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 _____.