

## **MODAL VERB: WOULD**

#### **FUTURE**

### Used to refer to future time from the point of view of the past:

- He said he would see his brother tomorrow.
- They knew there would be trouble unless the report was finished by the next day.
- We realized it wouldn't be easy to find another secretary.

#### **INTENTION**

## Used to refer to an intention from the point of view of the past:

- He said he would always love her .
- They promised that they would help.
- There was nobody left who would (= was willing to) do it.
- I asked him to move his car but he said he wouldn't (= he refused).

#### **POSSIBILITY**

# Used to refer to a situation that you can imagine happening:

- I would hate to miss the show.
- I'd go myself but I'm too busy.
- It would have been very boring to sit through the whole speech.

# Used with *if* in conditional sentences (= sentences that refer to what happens if something else happens):

- What would you do if you lost your job?
- If I'd had time, I would have gone to see Graham.

#### **REQUEST**

### Used in polite requests and offers:

- Would you like to borrow this book?
- May I conduct you to your table, sir, or would you prefer to have a drink at the barfirst?

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- Would you like an aisle seat or would you prefer to be by the window?
- Is that enough potato, or would you like some more?
- Someone's at the door would you answer it please?

#### **WILLINGNESS**

Used to talk about what someone was willing to do or what something was able to do:

- This new computer system would save us a lot of time when doing the accounts.
- Such a policy would enhance the company's profile abroad.
- Thick carpet would reduce the echo in this hallway.
- She would let you use her computer if you asked.
- I wouldn't get involved if I were you.

## **WOULD: FORM**

#### **AFFIRMATIVE FORM:**

Would comes first in the verb phrase (after the subject and before another verb):

- Dad would sing to us every evening.
- Would cannot be used with another modal verb:
- When Tracy opened the door, she thought she **would** find an empty room.
  - Not: ... she thought she would might find an empty room. or ... she thought she might would find an empty room.

#### **NEGATIVE FORM:**

The negative form of would is wouldn't. We don't use don't, doesn't, didn't with would:

- There wouldn't be any food in the house.
  - Not: There didn't would be any food in the house.

We use the full form *would not* in formal contexts or when we want to emphasise something:

• Your father **would not** approve.

#### **QUESTION FORM:**

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# The subject and would change position to form questions. We don't use do, does, did:

- Would that be a good idea?
  - Not: Does this would that be a good idea?
- Wouldn't that be a good idea?

## We can use would and wouldn't in question tags:

- She wouldn't be any help, would she?
- They would enjoy that, wouldn't they?

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