

## Will and Would: When Do We Use Them?

This is the fourth lesson in the **modal verbs** or modal **auxiliaries** [series](#).

Today, we are going to talk about **WILL** and **WOULD**.

### REMEMBER:

- There are 9 **modal verbs** in English: **Must, Can, Could, May, Might, Will, Would, Shall** and **Should**.
- **Modal verbs** are tools that help us to express modality. In fact, **modals** allow the speaker to express his or her point of view regarding an action, an event or a situation.
- **Modal verbs** always remain the same no matter the subject and cannot be conjugated. Moreover, they do not have **present** and **past participles**.

(I ~~am~~ **will**ing go./ I ~~have~~ **will**ed go.)

## MODAL VERB (WILL)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
<b>will</b> <b>'ll</b>					

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
<b>will not</b> <b>won't</b>					

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
<b>Will</b>							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
<b>go?</b>							



## Step 1: Characteristics of WILL

- We use **WILL** in the future tense. (E.g. *I will go to Namibia next summer.*)
- A verb stem always follows **WILL**. (E.g. *He will perform this Saturday.*) The verb stem is also known as the base of a verb. You can find examples of verb stems in the [dictionary](#).
- We do not add 'TO' after **WILL**. (E.g. *She will ~~to~~ come.*)
- **WILL** is able to replace auxiliary verbs such as **DO** and **BE** which help us to form questions. (E.g. *When will you go?*)

## Step 2: Examples of WILL in the Affirmative Form (+)

### Talking About Future Plans

We often use the modal verb **WILL** to refer to **future events** or **actions** that have been planned. In this case, we also use **adverbs** or **time expressions** such as *soon, tomorrow, after, the day after tomorrow, at eight*, etc.

- He will come tomorrow.
- I will talk to him after dinner. Moreover, I will have a word with his sister too.
- The train will leave at seven.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you talk about **future events** or **actions** that have been planned using **WILL**.

### Making Predictions

Here, we use **WILL** to prophesy or foretell the future. We can base our predictions on experience, observations or scientific knowledge.

- The coronavirus pandemic will be better managed once vaccines are available to everyone.
- He'll be a renowned doctor one day.
- People will live on Mars in two hundred years' time. However, the earth will be in a different state.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **make predictions** about the future using **WILL**.

### Expressing Certainty About the Future

This is when we use **WILL** to show how **sure** we are about a **future event**. With **WILL**, the probability of something happening is high.

- He will have arrived by 3 p.m. Besides, he will call us as soon as he is at the airport.
- That will be the postman. He always comes around this hour.
- We'll sleep earlier tonight.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express certainty about the future using **WILL**.

### Expressing Possibility in First Conditionals

We also use **WILL** to refer to a hypothetical situation that is possible in the future.

- I'll be happy if he comes.
- If the taxi doesn't arrive soon, I'll go by bike. Hence, don't wait for me.
- They will be mad if you don't write to them.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express possibility in first conditionals** using **WILL**.

### Making Rapid or Spontaneous Decisions

In this case, we use **WILL** to talk about something that we have **just decided to do**.

- Look, I'll talk to him, okay?
- I think I'll stop smoking this month but I need to have a strong plan.

- Wait, I'll come with you.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you make **rapid** or **spontaneous decisions** using **WILL**.

### Making Promises and Offers

In this instance, we use **WILL** to tell someone that we mean to do something for them.

- I will help you, don't worry.
- We will get it for you.
- I'll marry you.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **offer to do something for someone** using **WILL**.

### Making Orders or Commands

We can also use **WILL** to give an instruction to someone,.

- You will respect the rules of this house at all times.
- Guests will be asked to leave room keys at the reception before their departure.
- You will avoid littering this place.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **give orders to someone** using **WILL**.

### Making Suggestions

We can use **WILL** to give an idea to someone. With **WILL**, there is more authority to this suggestion or offer.

- You have put on too much weight. You will want to go on a diet to shed off some kilogrammes.
- Jack, you will decide what to do as you go along.
- You will be more efficient during the day if you sleep earlier.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **suggest something to someone** using **WILL**.

### Characterising Someone or Something

In some cases, we can use **WILL** to talk about the **characteristics** of someone or something.

We can also refer to general truths.

- Water will boil at 100°C.
- Jack will keep me waiting just to annoy me. Hence, I avoid him at all costs.
- Dogs will go out of their way to make you feel loved.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **characterise someone or something** using **WILL**.

### Expressing Determination

We can equally use **WILL** to express our volition, willingness or determination.

- I will stop smoking.
- We will win this match.
- I'll do my best.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express determination** using **WILL**.

## Step 3: Examples of WILL in the Negative Form (-)

### Talking about Future Plans

In this context, we use **WILL + NOT** to talk about something that is not **planned** to happen in the future.

- He will not come tomorrow.
- The bus will not arrive on time.
- The company will not pay their employees' salaries this month.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **talk about future events** that are **not planned** to happen using **WILL + NOT**.

### Making Predictions about the Future

Here, we use **WILL** to prophesy about something that is not going to happen in the future.

- The earth will not be destroyed within 50 years. In fact, people will continue to live normal lives with slight changes.
- He will never go back to his village.
- The government will not give vaccines to everyone.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **make predictions about the future** whereby something is **not going to happen** using **WILL + NOT**.

### Expressing Uncertainty about the Future

This is when we use **WILL + NOT** to say that something is **not likely to happen in the future**.

- The train won't arrive on time. However, I won't wait for it.
- He will not win his tennis match.
- We won't go to the concert.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which **WILL + NOT** are going to be used to talk about something that is very **unlikely to happen in the future**.

### Expressing Impossibility in First Conditionals

In this case, we use **WILL + NOT** to refer to a hypothetical or unreal situation in which someone will not realise a certain action.

- She will not leave him if he changes his ways.
- If the manager stops shouting at him, he will not quit his job.
- They won't do their homework if the exercises are too difficult.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **impossibility in first conditionals** using **WILL + NOT**.

## Refusing to Do Something

If you want to say that you **do not want to do something**, you can use **WILL + NOT**.

- I won't take out the trash. However, I'm willing to help you on other chores.
- She will not talk to me. She even refuses to look at me.
- We will not go to the ceremony. Moreover, we will not go to next year's either.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **refuse to do something** using **WILL + NOT**.

## Making Orders or Commands

We can also tell someone not to do something using **WILL + NOT**.

- You will not leave this room whenever you want.
- Students, you will not hand in your homework late. However, you may notify me by email if there are any problems and if you need extra help.
- You will not backtalk to me.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **order someone not to do something** using **WILL + NOT**.

## Step 4: Examples of WILL in the Interrogative Form(?)

### Making Requests

**WILL** is commonly used to ask someone if he or she can do something for us. With **WILL**, there is a sense that it actually depends on the **willingness** of the other person to do the action or not.

- Will you pass me the salt, please?
- Ruth, will you tell me the truth?
- Will you come with me?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **asks someone to do something for him or her** using **WILL**.

### **Asking Questions in Conditional Sentences**

Here, we use **WILL** to ask **WH-** or **Yes/NO** questions in hypothetical or unreal situations.

**WILL** adds the idea of certainty to the question.

- What will happen if snow falls in the desert?
- Will you come if I bring some cake?
- How will this affect me if I proceed to do it anyway?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject asks **WH-** or **Yes/No** questions in **conditional sentences** using **WILL**.

### **Asking for Information**

In this case, **WILL** behaves like an auxiliary verb and helps us to form **WH-**questions. Usually, there is **little doubt** as far as the realisation of the action is concerned.

- When will you come?
- Who will go with you?
- How will this be done?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject asks for **information** using **WILL**.

### **Making Commands**

It is not unusual to find **WILL** being used to order someone to do something in the interrogative form.

- Will you be quiet?
- Who will go with you?
- How will this be done?



**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject orders someone to do something using **WILL**.

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NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)					
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INTERROGATIVE FORM							
<b>Would</b>							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
<b>go?</b>							



### Step 5: Characteristics of WOULD

- We use **WOULD** as the past tense of **WILL**. (E.g. *He told me that he would come.*)
- We also use **WOULD** in second conditionals. (E.g. *If I had a lot of money, I would buy a beautiful house by the lake.*) This past form of **WOULD** is also called the unreal past because it refers to an unreal or hypothetical situation. However, note that the action 'buy a beautiful house' will happen in the **future**.
- A verb stem always follows **WOULD**. (E.g. *In those early days, he would call me every single day.*) The verb stem is also known as the base of a verb. You can find examples of verb stems in the dictionary.)
- We do not add '**TO**' after **WOULD**. (E.g. *She would ~~to~~ be happy if you called her.*)

- **WOULD** is able to replace auxiliary verbs such as **DO** and **BE** which help us to form questions. (E.g. *Where would he hide it?*)

## Step 6: Examples of WOULD in the Affirmative Form (+)

### Expressing Repetitive Actions in the Past

We can use **WOULD** to talk about actions (not states!) that happened in the past on a regular basis. We can replace this with '**USED TO**'.

- He would come to my house every morning. (*He used to come to my house every morning.*)
- They would play basketball each and every evening. Moreover, they would pass by the gym to do some extra exercises.
- When she was preparing for his exams, she would wake up at 3 a.m. to study.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences to describe **repeated past actions** using **WOULD**.

### Expressing Possibility in the Future in Second Conditionals

In this instance, we use **WOULD** to talk about hypothetical or unreal situations that are **possible in the future** in **second conditional sentences**.

- If I became a Member of Parliament, I would avoid lying to my constituents.
- In fact, if he were rich, he would still remain stingy. He cannot afford to part with his money.
- If we became more careful, the state of our planet would be better.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **possibility in the future** using **WOULD**.

### Expressing Possibility in the Past in Third Conditional Sentences

In this case, we use **WOULD + HAVE-EN/ED (Present Perfect)** to refer to a hypothetical situation that was possible in the past, depending on the realisation of a previous action.

- If they had been rich, they would have bought a mansion with a swimming pool.
- I would have stopped living in the city, if I had become famous.
- If they had come, I would have talked to them.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **possibility in the past** in **conditional sentences** using **WOULD**.

### Expressing Possibility in the Past

In this case, we use **WOULD + HAVE-EN/ED (Present Perfect)** to say that something you wanted to do in the past **did not happen**.

- I would have married you.
- He would have gone to Harvard, but he chose to go to Cambridge.
- Why didn't you wait for us? We would have picked you up!

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **possibility** in the past using **WOULD**.

### Reported Speech

We use **WOULD** to report what someone has said to someone. We also talk of indirect speech.

- He said he would do his homework on time. (**Direct Speech:** *I will do my homework on time.*)
- They insisted that they would write the article no matter the consequences. (**Direct Speech:** *We will write the article no matter the consequences.*)
- You mentioned that the state president would be there. However, he wasn't there. (**Direct Speech:** *The state president will be there.*)

### Expressing Wishes and Preferences

**WOULD** is used when expressing a **desire** for something.

- I wish you would treat me better.

- He wished that they would visit him. However, time passed and they didn't.
- I'd rather drink this juice.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express wishes** using **WOULD**.

### Expressing Opinions

Sometimes, you can use **WOULD** to say what you think about a certain subject. In fact, using **WOULD** makes your approach more tentative.

- I would think that he would stop lying to them after all this time.
- In my opinion, I would say that keeping animals in zoos is detrimental to their mental wellbeing.
- I would like to add that people should respect health rules to limit the spread of COVID-19.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express opinions** using **WOULD**.

### Giving Advice

It is possible to give tentative **recommendations** to someone using **WOULD**.

- I'd suggest that you eat a lot of fruits and vegetables.
- You would better watch less YouTube videos in order to have more time for your studies.
- Besides, I would stop drinking beer if I were you.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **give advice to someone** using **WOULD**

## Step 7: Examples of WOULD in the Negative Form (-)

### Expressing Impossibility in the Future in Second Conditionals

We can use **WOULD + NOT** to talk about hypothetical situations that are **not possible in the future**.

- If I became a Member of Parliament, I wouldn't lie to my constituents.
- In fact, if he were rich, he wouldn't become very generous all over a sudden.
- If we told them the truth, they wouldn't believe us.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **impossibility in the future** using **second conditionals**.

### Expressing Impossibility in the Past in Third Conditionals

We can use **WOULD + NOT** to talk about **hypothetical situations** that were **not possible in the past**.

- If I had become a Member of Parliament, I wouldn't have lied to my constituents.
- As a matter of fact, if he had decided to go, you wouldn't have been able to stop him.
- If we had told them the truth, they wouldn't have believed us.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **impossibility in the past** in **third conditionals** using **WOULD + NOT**.

### Expressing Impossibility in the Past

We can use **WOULD + NOT** to talk about **situations** that were not **likely to happen** in the past.

- In fact, he wouldn't have behaved like this ten years ago.
- They wouldn't have talked to me.
- She wouldn't have bought those shoes with the little amount of money that she had.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **impossibility in the past** using **WOULD + NOT**.

### Refusing to Do Something in the Past

Here, we use **WOULD + NOT** to say that someone **did not want to** do something in the **past**.

- He wouldn't answer my call.
- They wouldn't let me see her.
- She would not open the door.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which someone **did not want to do something in the past** using **WOULD + NOT**.

### Giving Advice

In this case, we use **WOULD + NOT** to give **recommendations to someone** as to **what should not be done** or **what should be avoided**.

- I wouldn't do it if I were you.
- Frankly speaking, I wouldn't look at him twice. Therefore, you should avoid him.
- I would not believe fake news.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you give **recommendations** to someone as to what shouldn't be done using **WOULD + NOT**.

### Expressing Opinions

In some cases, we can use **WOULD + NOT** to say what we think about a certain situation.

- I wouldn't say that it's true.
- As for me, I wouldn't do it at any cost.
- I would not hesitate to mention that mental wellbeing is essential for everyone.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express your opinions** on a certain subject using **WOULD + NOT**.

## Step 8: Examples of WOULD in the Interrogative Form(?)

### Making Polite Requests

We can use **WOULD** to **ask someone** if he or she can do something for us in a **polite way**.

- Would you pass by my office please?
- Sir, would you know the way to the nearest supermarket?
- Would you mind if I borrowed your pen?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject makes **polite requests** using **WOULD**.

### Asking for Information

In this case, **WOULD** behaves like an **auxiliary verb** and helps us to form **WH-questions**.

However, the questions are more formal, polite and tentative.

- What would be the reason of your visit ?
- Besides, where would he hide?
- When would she make an appearance?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject asks for **information** in a formal and polite way using **WOULD**.

### Asking questions in Conditional Sentences

In this case, we use **WOULD** to form **WH-** and **Yes/No questions** in hypothetical or unreal situations.

- How would you behave if somebody told you that you could no longer live in your country?
- What would happen if you passed your exams with stellar results?
- Who would be your best friend if you were to name one right now?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **ask questions** using **WOULD** in an **unreal situation**.

### Making Offers or Invitations

**WOULD** is a polite way of asking someone if he or she would like to have something or do something.

- Would you have some tea Jane?
- Mike, would you like to come to my party?
- Would you like some more?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **offer something to someone** using **WOULD**.





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