

Unit 32: **WOULD**

Would is a modal verb. Unit 27 shows you how to make correct sentences with it. This unit shows you when to use it. Notice that –‘**d** is the short form.

USE

EXAMPLES

1 **Imaginary situations**

a present and future

If we hadn't met that time, I **wouldn't be** here now.

(But we met, so I am here now.)

I think he **would find** the movie very interesting.

b advice

What **would** you **do** in my place?

If I were you, I'**d take** a long holiday.

NOTICE: ALSO **must** and **should** (Unit 33)

c past time

They **wouldn't have lost** if John had been playing for them.
(But he wasn't playing.)

If I'd known you were coming, I **would have stayed longer**.
(But I didn't know, so I left.)

2 **Would + like**

a asking

I'**d like** some information, please.

want, but it is more polite

b offers and invitations

Would you **like** some coffee?

Would you **like** to join us?

NOTICE: ALSO **can** (Unit 28) **will** (Unit 31)

3 **Polite commands**

Would you **open** that suitcase, please, madam?

4 *Past tense of will*

a refusal My car **wouldn't start** this morning. (Unit 31)

b We use **would** (NOT *will*) in sentences with a past-tense verb before the modal (Unit 63).
For example:

He **asked** me if I **would** mail a letter for him. (Unit 31)

I **thought** I **would** visit my parents this weekend. (Unit 31)

They **said** they **would** be writing to me soon. (Unit 31)

NOTICE: We also use **would** with **mind** + **-ing** form (Unit 48.2c), **mind** + **if** (Unit 86.2a) and with **rather** (Unit 84.2).