

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 you hadn't stolen that money, I **wouldn't be** firing you now.
(But you did steal, so I am firing you now.)
I think your coworkers **would find** the circumstances 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** as many profits if John had been working for them.
(But he wasn't working.)
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** a smaller size?
Would you **like** to try something on?

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

3 *Polite commands*

Would you **wait** here until the next assistant is ready, please, sir?

4 *Past tense of will*

a **refusal** My debit machine **wouldn't work** 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** work tomorrow for him. (Unit 31)

I **thought** I **would** take an extra shift this weekend. (Unit 31)

They **said** she **would** be working too. (Unit 31)

NOTICE: We also use **would** with **mind** + **-ing** form (Unit 48), **mind** + **if** (Unit 86) and with **rather** (Unit 84).