

# How to Use WOULD in English

Exercise Worksheet • Intermediate to Upper-Intermediate

Name	Date	Score
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## Quick reference

- would + base verb: I would help. / I wouldn't help. / Would you help?
- Common uses: polite requests, preferences, conditionals, repeated past actions, reported speech, polite questions.
- Remember: use would for repeated past actions, but not for past states (use used to).
- Common pattern: If I had known, I would have called.

## Exercise 1: Match the use

Match each sentence (1–8) with the correct use of *would*. Write the letter next to each sentence.

No.	Sentence	Letter
1	Would you like another slice of cake?	
2	When I was a child, my grandfather would tell us stories.	
3	If I had more time, I would learn Italian.	
4	She said she would call me later.	
5	I'd rather stay at home tonight.	
6	How would you like to pay?	
7	I'd suggest checking your spelling again.	
8	If they had left earlier, they would have caught the train.	

**Uses:** A = polite offer/request B = repeated past action C = second conditional D = reported speech E = preference F = polite question G = soft advice/opinion H = third conditional

## Exercise 2: Complete the sentences with would or wouldn't

- I \_\_\_\_\_ like a glass of water, please.
- She promised she \_\_\_\_\_ tell anyone my secret.
- When we lived by the sea, we \_\_\_\_\_ walk on the beach every evening.
- If I were you, I \_\_\_\_\_ apologise straight away.
- They \_\_\_\_\_ have missed the bus if they had left home earlier.
- \_\_\_\_\_ you mind opening the door?
- He said he \_\_\_\_\_ be late because of the traffic.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ rather travel by train than by coach.

### Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences to make them more polite

Use *would* or *would like* where possible.

1. Give me a coffee.

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2. Help me with these bags.

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3. Do you want to sit here?

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4. Tell me your opinion.

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5. Close the window, please.

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### Exercise 4: Choose the best answer

1. I'd rather (to stay / stay / staying) at home this evening.
2. Would you rather (go / went / gone) now or later?
3. She'd rather travel by train than (fly / to fly / flew).
4. We'd rather (not tell / not to tell / didn't tell) them yet.
5. Would he rather (work / worked / working) from home?

### Exercise 5: Complete the conditionals

1. If I had a little more money, I \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If she were more confident, she \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If we had known about the delay, we \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If he had studied harder, he \_\_\_\_\_.
5. If I were the manager, I \_\_\_\_\_.

### Exercise 6: Write *would* or *used to*

Choose the best option. Remember: *would* is used for repeated past actions, while *used to* can describe past actions and past states.

1. When I was young, I \_\_\_\_\_ spend hours drawing cartoons.
2. My grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ live in a small village near Niš.
3. Every winter, we \_\_\_\_\_ visit our cousins in the mountains.
4. He \_\_\_\_\_ be very shy when he was a teenager.
5. On hot days, my father \_\_\_\_\_ sit outside and read the newspaper.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ have a little shop on the corner.

### Exercise 7: Report the sentences

Change *will* to *would* where necessary.

1. "I will call you tonight," Anna said.

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2. "We will help you tomorrow," they promised.

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3. "I won't forget your birthday," he said.

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4. "The lesson will be easy," the teacher said.

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### Exercise 8: Make polite questions with would

1. what / like / drink ?

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2. where / like / sit ?

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3. how / like / pay ?

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4. when / like / start ?

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5. who / like / invite ?

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### Exercise 9: Correct the mistakes

1. If I would have known, I would have called you.

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2. When I was a child, I would be very shy.

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3. She said she will meet us after work.

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4. I'd rather to stay here.

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5. Would you like helping me for a minute?

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### Exercise 10: Short writing task

Write 5–6 sentences about your habits in the past or imaginary situations. Use *would* at least four times. You can include one sentence with *would rather* and one conditional sentence.

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## Answer Key

### Exercise 1

1 A, 2 B, 3 C, 4 D, 5 E, 6 F, 7 G, 8 H

### Exercise 2

1 would, 2 wouldn't, 3 would, 4 would, 5 wouldn't / would not, 6 Would, 7 would, 8 would

### Exercise 3

Suggested answers: 1. I would like a coffee, please. 2. Would you help me with these bags, please? 3. Would you like to sit here? 4. I'd like to hear your opinion. / Would you tell me your opinion? 5. Would you close the window, please?

### Exercise 4

1 stay, 2 go, 3 fly, 4 not tell, 5 work

### Exercise 5

Answers will vary. Suggested: 1. I would buy a new laptop. 2. She would apply for the job. 3. we would have come later. 4. he would have passed the exam. 5. I would change a few rules.

### Exercise 6

1 would, 2 used to, 3 would, 4 used to, 5 would, 6 used to

### Exercise 7

1. Anna said that she would call me that night. 2. They promised that they would help me the next day. 3. He said that he wouldn't forget my birthday. 4. The teacher said that the lesson would be easy.

### Exercise 8

1. What would you like to drink? 2. Where would you like to sit? 3. How would you like to pay? 4. When would you like to start? 5. Who would you like to invite?

### Exercise 9

1. If I had known, I would have called you. 2. When I was a child, I used to be very shy. 3. She said she would meet us after work. 4. I'd rather stay here. 5. Would you like to help me for a minute?

### Exercise 10

Answers will vary.