

# Would Uses

Would is the past tense of will in indirect speech.

Direct: The manager said, 'The shop will be closed on Monday.'

Indirect: The manager said that the shop would be closed on Monday.

Would has the following uses:

## Willingness

Would expresses ideas such as willingness or determination.

The doctor said he would perform the operation.

He said that he would try his best to help me.

They would cut classes in spite of the warning given by the principal.

## Habitual actions in the past

Would can be used to talk about a customary or habitual action in the past.

The old man would recline in a corner and sleep most of the time.

## Wishes

Both would and would like to can be used to express a wish.

I would know what I am supposed to do. (= I would like to know what I am supposed to.)

## Would rather

Would rather expresses choice or preference.

She would rather die than marry him.

I would rather read a novel than watch that absurd movie.

## Polite questions

Would is used for asking polite questions.

Would you open the window? (This is more polite than 'Will you open the window?')

Would you, please, call me a taxi?

# Would Uses

Impossible or improbable conditions

Would is used in the main clause when the subordinate clause expresses an impossible or improbable condition.

If I could fly like a bird, I would be with you now.