**Uses of Would**

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**Indirect speech**

**Would** is the past tense of **will** in indirect speech.

* Direct speech: John said, ‘I **will** wait until you return.’
* Indirect speech: John said that he **would** wait until I return.
* Direct speech: The boy said, ‘I **will** not eat this cake.’
* Indirect speech: The boy said that he **would**not eat that cake.

**Willingness and determination**

**Would** expresses ideas such as willingness or determination.

* He said that he**would** help me.
* She said that she **would** wait for me.
* I **would** have my own way. (= I am determined to have my own way.)

**Habitual action in the past**

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

* After dinner we **would** all sit in the hall and chat for a while.

**Would and would like to**

**Would** is often used to express a wish. In this case it means the same as **would like to.**

* I**would** know what I am supposed to do.
* I **would like to**know what I am supposed to do.

**Polite questions**

**Would** is used to ask polite questions.

* **Would**you like a cup of coffee? (More polite than ‘Will you like a cup of coffee?’)
* **Would** you mind lending me your bicycle?
* **Would**you, please, call me a taxi?

**Would** is also used in the main clause when preceded or followed by a subordinate clause expressing an impossible or improbable condition.

* If I could fly like a bird, I **would** be with you now.
* If I were the President, I **would** lower taxes.