

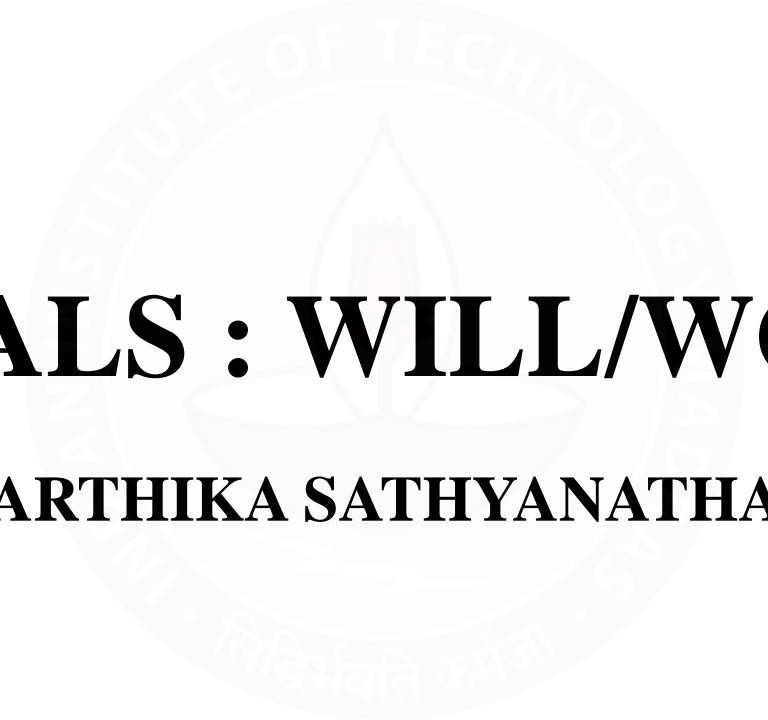
IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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MODALS : WILL/WOULD

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MODAL VERBS : WILL AND WOULD

- Use of modals: Possibility, obligation, suggestion, permission.
- Both will and would are used in similar situations, however, they are not the same.
- Will : real possibilities
- Would : imagined situations in future

Will vs. would with conditionals

Will vs. would for making requests

Will vs. would for offering something

Will vs. would for giving advice

Will vs. would in reported speech

USE OF WILL

- To give information about future.

We'll head home after work.

- To talk about what we think, or guess will happen.

Don't lend him your car. He'll crash it.

- To talk about things that we are ready to do or that we're open to doing without any issues or objections:

I will eat anything. I'm not picky at all.

- To talk about general rules, especially on signs or in codes of conduct or company policies and procedures:

Smokers will be asked to smoke outside.

- To give orders or commands

You will pick up your room!

USE OF WOULD

- To talk about things that we expected to happen in the past.

The sky was getting cloudy, which meant it would rain.

- To talk about habits in the past.

When we lived in the mountains, we would go hiking all the time.

We used to smoke / We would smoke

Note: If we don't clarify that we're talking about the past, it could sound like we're talking about something we might do in the present if we had the opportunity. For clarity, it's better to use it in this way: *Before we quit, we would smoke all the time.*

- To talk about future in the past.

USE OF ‘WILL’ & ‘WOULD’ WITH CONDITIONALS

Zero conditional: Zero conditional is used to talk about facts and situations which are always true. If you add one and one, you get two. (IF + PrS, PrS)

1st conditional: With first conditional, we talk about actions/events in the future which are likely to happen. If it rains tomorrow, I'll stay at home. (IF + PrS, will + infinitive)

2nd conditional: With second conditional, we talk about impossible things in the present or unlikely things in the future. If I had a magic wand, I would change some historical events. (IF + PstS, would + infinitive)

3rd conditional: With third conditional we talk about things that didn't happen in the past and their imaginary results. I would never have met with her if I hadn't gone to that party.

MODEST REQUESTS & PROPOSALS

- Formal situation: Use “would” to form request and proposal.

Would you please come in?

Would you like a cup of coffee?

- Informal situation: Use “will” to form request and proposal in an informal setting.

Will you come in?

Will you like a cup of coffee?

REPORTED SPEECH AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PAST HABITS

- Reported speech

She told me that she would be here at 8 o'clock.

- Describing past habits

When I was young, I would play tennis with my brother. (action verb)

- State verbs should not be used with ‘would’ to describe past events.

When I was young, I would live in an old house. (state verb) X

When I was young, I used to live in an old house.

EXPRESS LIKING AND PREFERENCES FOR SOMETHING

- Words, such as love, hate, prefer, like and glad are used along with “would” to describe certain situations.

I would be glad to help.

I would hate to work out in the morning.

I would love to go on a trip to Spain.

GIVE OPINION ON UNCERTAIN THINGS

- I would say he is about forty.
- I think it would take about forty minutes.

EXPRESS REFUSAL TO DO SOMETHING

Reva wouldn't go to the doctor, even though she was in pain.

My bike would not start today.

WOULD WITH THE USE OF THE WORD ‘WISH’

I wish she would leave me

I wish you would be quiet for a minute.

EXPRESS THE RESULT OF AN ACTION

- Results and intentions are expressed with “so that or in order.

The criminal burned all the evidence in order to escape the police.
He burned all the letters so that his mother would ever read them.