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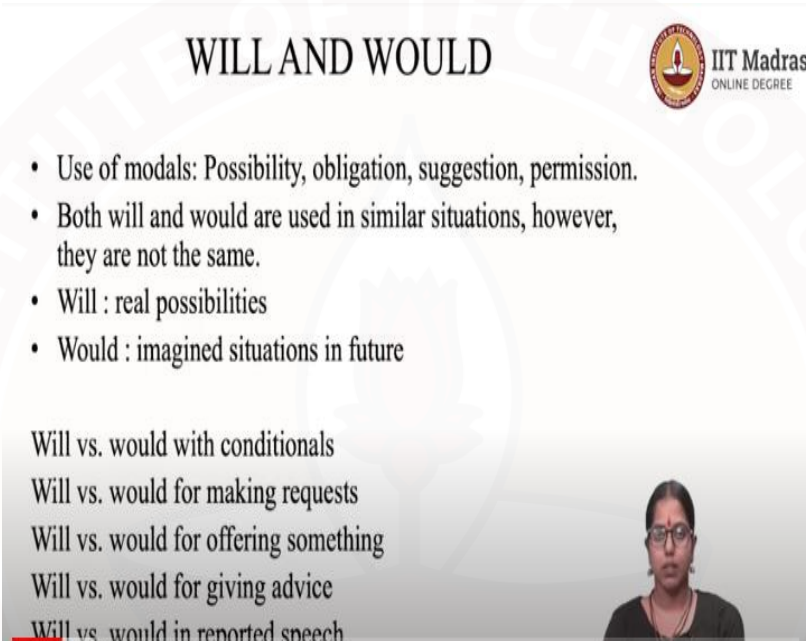
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English II (Advanced English)
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Will/Would

Hello all! Welcome to this module. Today we will talk about will and would.

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WILL AND WOULD

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- 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

Have you ever got in the words will and would mixed up in a sentence? Basically, this means that we use them with other verbs to talk about things such as possibility, obligation, suggestion, and permission. And English learners often get these two words confused because they are used in very similar situations, but they are not the same.

The main difference between will and would is that will is used for real situations, and it always signifies the future, whereas would is used for imagine situations in the future or of the past.

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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 tidy up your room.



Of course, this is a very simple explanation, we will get into the details of that very soon. Now, let us check the usage of will. One has to give information about the future, an example sentences, “We’ll head home after work.” The second one, to talk about what we think or guess will happen. An example sentence is, “Don’t lend him your car. He’ll crash it.”

Third use is to talk about things that we are ready to do or that we are open to doing without any issue or objections; an example is, “I will eat anything, I’m not picky at all.” Fourth is to talk about general rules, especially on signs or in codes of conduct of company policies and procedures. For example, “Smokers will be asked to smoke outside.” And the fifth is to give orders or commands, for example, “You will tidy up our room.”

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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.*



Now, the use of would, to talk about things that we expected to happen in the past. For example, “The sky was getting cloudy, which meant it would rain.” To talk about habits in the past, for example, “When we lived in the mountains, we would go on hiking all the time.” Now look at these two sentences, “We used to smoke/ and we would smoke.” Which one is grammatically accurate, or which one sounds more accurate grammatically?

Well, I would say the first sentence is grammatically accurate, and it sounds appropriate. Why? Because if we do not clarify that we are talking about the past, it would sound like we are talking about something we might do in the present if we had the opportunity, so for clarity, it is better to use it this way, “Before we quit, we would smoke all the time.” Or you would say, “We used to smoke all the time.”

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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. If I had studied harder, I would have passed the exam. (IF + **PstPerfect**, would + past participle)



Now talking about will and would with conditionals. So, what are conditionals in English grammar? Sometimes we call them the 'if clause'; they describe the result of something that might happen in the present or future or could have happened in the past or did not. They are all made using different English verb tenses, so zero conditionals is used to talk about facts and situations which are always true.

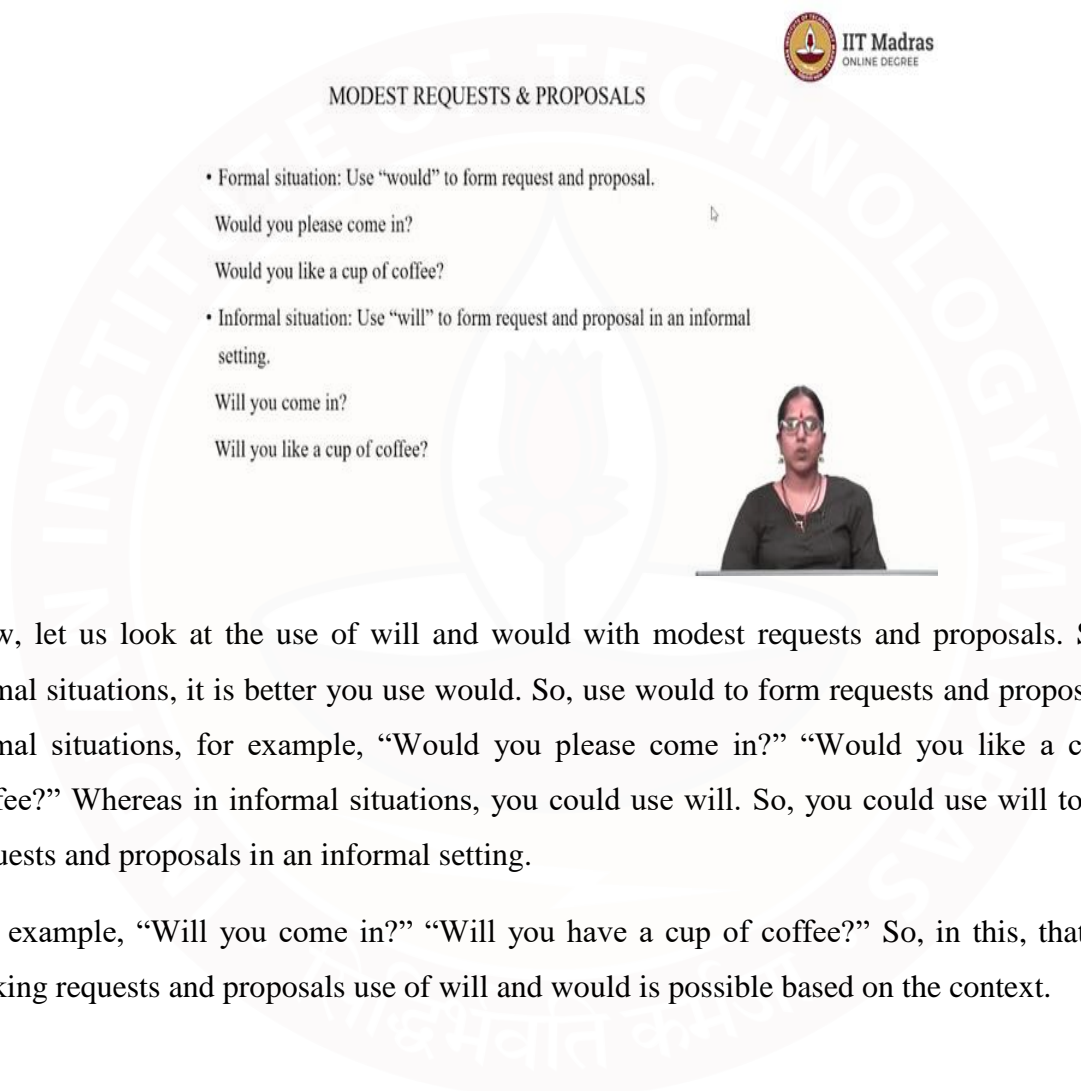
For example, if you add 1 and 1, you will get 2. So, what is the sentence structure here? Plus present simple. Now, if you look at this sentence, there is neither will nor would, precisely the point, in this kind of sentences, the sentences with this kind of structure, the structure is given on the slide, if plus present simple comma present simple, you should not be using modal verbs.

In the first conditionals or using the first conditionals, we talk about actions of events in the future which are likely to happen, for example, 'If it rains tomorrow, I will stay at home'. So, if plus present simple, will plus infinitive, so with kind of sentence structures, the verb used here is will and not would. Now, with the second conditional, we talk about impossible things in the present or unlikely things in the future.

For example, 'If I had a magic wand, I would change some historical events'. So, what is the sentence structure here? If plus past simple, would plus infinitive. So, with these kind of sentences, which modal verb is preferred, would and not will. So, it is better to say, "If I had a magic wand, I would change some historical facts" rather than "if I had a magic wand, I will change some historical events."


Now, with the third conditional, we talk about things that did not happen in the past and their imaginary results. For example, ‘If I studied harder, I would have passed the exam’. Now, what is the sentence structure? If plus past perfect, would plus past participle, so with these kinds of sentence constructions, you need to use would and not will. So, I hope you are clear with conditionals in the use of will and would.

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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?



Now, let us look at the use of will and would with modest requests and proposals. So, in formal situations, it is better you use would. So, use would to form requests and proposals in formal situations, for example, “Would you please come in?” “Would you like a cup of coffee?” Whereas in informal situations, you could use will. So, you could use will to form requests and proposals in an informal setting.

For example, “Will you come in?” “Will you have a cup of coffee?” So, in this, that is in making requests and proposals use of will and would is possible based on the context.

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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.



Now, talking about reported speech and descriptions of past habits, in both these situations, that is when you are reporting somebody speech or when you are describing past habits, you should definitely use would and not will. Examples are given here, 'She told me that she would be here at 8 o'clock. Similarly, when you are describing past habits, 'When I was young, I would play tennis with my brother'.

Now try replacing would with will here in the sentence it would sound so absurd, 'When I was young, I will play tennis with my brother'. No, that sounds grammatically wrong. So, another thing that you need to note here, which is very important, is that you should use would only with action verbs and not state verbs. So, what are state verbs? There are certain verbs that define a state of being; an example is 'live'. Live is a state verb.

So, in, with state verbs, you should not be using would. Instead, you could use used to, so replace would with used to, an example sentence is given here, 'When I was young, I would live in an old house', so because live is a state verb, the sentence is not grammatically accurate, so the right sentence is 'When I was young, I used to live in a old house'.

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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.



Now, talking about expressing your liking and preferences for something. Words just love, hate, prefer, like and glad are used along with “would” to describe certain situations. For example, ‘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’. So, these are all examples of expressing liking and preferences for something using would.

So, the rule is with words, such as love, hate, prefer, like, glad, et cetera, “would” should be used. Now, when you talk about uncertain things, particularly when you are giving your opinion on uncertain things, then you should use “would” over “will”. For example, let us suppose your friend is asking, “How old do you think this man is?” You should be saying, “I would say he is about 40,” rather than I will say, “He is about 40.”

Similarly, you could say, “I think it would take about 40 minutes.” If someone is asking you, “What is the distance between point A and point B?” “What is the distance Velacheri and Adyar?” Or, “How long does it take to travel from Velacheri to Adyar?” Then you could say, “I think it would take about 20 minutes.” Because there you are giving your opinion on something that you are not very sure about, and therefore, you say, “I think.”

And because you use to expression, “I think,” it is better you use “would” over “will” and because you used the expression “I think”, which means you are giving your opinion on something uncertain, it is better you use “would” over “will.”

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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 WORD 'WISH'

I wish she would leave me
I wish you would be quiet for a minute.



Now, expressing refusal, expressing your refusal to do something. Example sentences are, “Reva wouldn’t go to the doctor, even though she was in pain.” If something has happened in the past, Reva was in pain in the past, therefore here it is better that you use “would” over “will”. Rather than saying, “Reva will not go to the doctor, even though she was in pain,” it is better you use, “Reva wouldn’t go to the doctor, even though she was in pain.”

Similarly, “My bike would not start today,” rather than saying, “My bike will not start today” which means, it sounds like you are having some vision about your bike not starting when you get out of your bed in the morning. So, unless the situation is out of the ordinary like that, you did not say something like, “My bike will not start today.” It is better you phrase it this way, “My bike would not start today.”

Now, would with the word ‘wish’, so when you start a sentence with something like ‘I wish’, then try using would instead of will, “I wish she would leave me.” Rather than saying, “I wish she will leave me,” it is better you say, “I wish she would leave me.” Another example is, “I wish you would be quiet for a minute.”

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EXPRESS THE RESULT OF AN ACTION



- Results and intentions are expressed with “so that/ in order”.
- He burned all the letters so that his mother would never read them.



And finally, you use would when you want to express the result of an action, that is, results and intentions are expressed with ‘so that/in order’ et cetera. So an example sentence is given here, ‘He burned all the letters so that his mother would never read them’. It does not sound very right when you say, “He burnt all the letters so that his mother will never read them.”

Here you are talking about results and intentions that are expressed with ‘so that’ and you are talking about the result of an action, or when you are trying to express the result of an action, you are trying to express the result of an action then you should use would over will. So, the situations I have discussed so far have almost all the uses of will and would.

Creating examples that are similar to the given situation would be a great way of improving your writing and speaking. So, with this, we come to the end of the session; I hope you enjoyed this class. I will meet you with a different topic on a different day, until then stay safe, take care, bye.