



NUMBER
C1 1021G EN

LANGUAGE
English



Goals

- Can use 'would' and 'going to' to discuss future events in the past.
- Can relate my own experience of events that were planned but didn't happen.







Using the future in the past

- This tense is used when speaking about the **past**.
- It expresses an idea that **was** in the **future** at the **time of speaking**.



We **were going** to have a meeting on Wednesday, but it was cancelled.
We thought the manager **would** inform us in advance, but she didn't!



Future in the past: different forms

- **Future in the past** most commonly uses **two** different forms.
- These are both used to talk about an **event** or **activity** that **was in the future** at a **particular moment** in the **past**.

Was, were going to	would
I was going to go on holiday in 2008.	I knew I would be nervous before the exam.
We were going to have a meeting.	He thought he would be an astronaut when he grew up.



Was, were going to

- This form is used to describe a **future plan or intention** relative to the time of speaking.
- This form is often used when the **anticipated event** did not actually happen.
- It is formed with the **past simple of to be + gerund of to go + to-infinitive of the planned verb**.

I **was going** to work out → ... but I decided to watch TV instead.

We **were going** to book our flights → ...but the website was down.

Weren't we **going** to eat out today? → Yes, but I forgot!

He **was going** to phone yesterday → ... but he ran out of time.

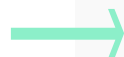


Was, were going to

- This form can be used either at the **beginning** or **later in the sentence**.

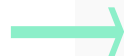


I **was going** to work out



... but I decided to watch TV instead.

The website was down



... when we **were going** to book our flights.

I forgot



... you **were planning** to visit!

He **was going** to phone yesterday



... but he ran out of time.



Would

- This form suggests an **expectation or a possibility**, but not necessarily a plan.
- Often paired with verbs relating to the **subject's thoughts (think, suspect, know, hope)** in the **past simple**.
- **Would** is the **past tense** of **will**.
- Formed using **past simple + would + infinitive (without to)**.

I thought	→	... I would be late
He suspected	→	... the news would upset her.
I knew	→	... you would win!
They thought	→	... the weather would be good.
We hoped	→	... we would get a pay rise.



Transform and extend the sentences

1. I'm **going** to Spain on holiday.



I **was going to go** to Spain on holiday, but I got sick.

2. I hope I'll finish my essay this evening.



3. We **think** there **will be** a meeting today.



4. He **is going** to tell me the details later.



5. They **are going** to do some volunteer work.



6. I **know** you **will do** just fine!



7. She **is going** to review the files on Monday.



8. I **think** it **will** be sunny.





Answer the question

1. Did you see the football last night?



I **was going to** watch it, but I fell asleep right after dinner.

2. Did John apply for that job he was interested in?



3. Did we receive the order this morning?



4. What time will she arrive?



5. Why did you postpone the meeting?



6. Anna hasn't called yet. Isn't it getting late?



7. Is your new position as interesting as you expected?



8. Did you reply to Mary's message ?





Future in the past: future events

- The future referred to in the past can still be yet to happen at the time of speaking.

- In each of these cases, the future event, as seen from the past, has not yet happened.
- However, the intention, plan or expectation was still formed in the past.

- I was going to call John this afternoon, but I haven't had time yet.
- Megan was going to look for a new job tomorrow morning.
- He hoped it would be sunny tomorrow afternoon, but the forecast looks gloomy.
- We hoped we would spot you in the crowd, but no luck so far!



Future in the past: future events

- This is almost exclusively used when something has interfered with the past expectation: the expectation or plan is unlikely to happen.
- All of these sentences are likely to be followed by “but” or “however”.
- The structure remains exactly the same.

Past expectation			Future time
He	was going to phone	me	later
Tanya	was going to visit	us	next week
We	were going to go	shopping	tomorrow
I	was going to wait	for you	before leaving



Sticky situations

Describe each situation using the future in the past. Each sentence you make should refer to something which was decided upon, but is now unlikely to happen. Make sure to explain what has got in the way!



to babysit



community work



Would

- The **would** form of future in the past can also be used to introduce something that is **currently true**.

- I always thought I **would** live in Paris, but I still live in Edinburgh.
- We hoped there **would** be good refreshments at the conference. They're great!
- I suspected the meeting **would** run over time, and sure enough...





Describe each image by creating sentences about things that are currently true using would.





Expectations vs reality: continue the story



Tom thought he would be an astronaut when he grew up, but he's an accountant. He was going to travel the world, but...

What about you?



Situations to use future in the past

- In which situations would you be most likely to use the future in the past construction?
- How is it being used below?



I **was going to** double-check the figures yesterday, but I ran out of time!



Apologising and giving excuses

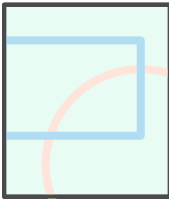
- Future in the past is frequently used to introduce **apologies**
- It can introduce an excuse or explanation of why a situation did not unfold as planned.

I'm so sorry...	I was going to prepare the documents today but...	I completely forgot about it.
Please accept my sincere apologies.	I thought the order would be complete by now but...	there has been a delay at the factory.
We can only apologise.	We were going to send out the payment on Monday but...	our payment system was down.



Write a post card

Write your friend a short postcard from Japan, where you have been travelling for a few months. You haven't been so good at keeping in touch and are feeling guilty. Work in some apologetic excuses as to why she hasn't heard from you.

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Future in the past: passive

- Future in the past can also be used in the **passive** voice.
- This **focuses on the planned or anticipated event or action**, rather than on the subject of the sentence.
- The main verb changes from the infinitive to **to be + past participle**.

- I **was going to prepare** a three-course meal yesterday.
- We **were going to discuss** the problem at today's meeting
- I knew he **would fix** the problem.

- A three-course meal **was going to be prepared** (by me)
- The problem **was going to be discussed** at today's meeting (by us).
- I knew the problem **would be fixed** (by him).



Future in the past: passive going to

- Constructing the passive voice in the future in the past is similar to constructing it in other tenses.
- The object becomes the subject, and the verb must then agree with the new subject rather than the old.
- The **infinitive** (**to hold** in the sentences below) changes to **to be + past participle** (**to be held**)
- The object position is now empty.

Subject	Verbs	Object	
I	was going to hold	a seminar	at lunchtime
The seminar	was going to be held	-	at lunchtime
We	were going to update	the system	later
The system	was going to be updated	-	later



Future in the past: passive would

- Constructing the **passive voice** in the **future in the past** is similar to constructing it in other tenses.
- The object becomes the subject, and the verb must then agree with the new subject rather than the old.
- **Would + infinitive** changes to **would + be + past participle** (e.g. **would write** changes to **would be written**)
- The object position is now empty.

	Subject	Verbs	Object
I knew	Peter	would complete	the project
I knew	the project	would be completed	-
We believed	the IT department	would fix	the problem
We believed	the problem	would be fixed	-



How NOT to use future in past



- Future in the past cannot be used with time clauses such as **before, after, by the time, as soon as, unless**.
- In these cases, the **past simple** or the **present tense** should be used (depending on whether or not the future event referred to has happened), or the sentence should be rephrased.
- Have a look at the examples below. How should the last one be changed?

Incorrect	Correct
I was going to drop you off before I was going to go shopping.	I was going to drop you off before I went shopping.
He knew the sun would start shining after he would arrive at work.	He knew the sun would start shining after he arrived at work!
We thought we would go swimming after we would finish our assignments.	We thought we would go swimming after we finished our assignments.
They were going to go on a cycling holiday next week unless the weather would be bad.	?



Create the sentence

Create sentences with the following cues in the active voice and, where possible, a second time in the passive voice.

Use would or going to as appropriate.

1. Yesterday/delivery/out of town

2. Reports/today/phone didn't stop ringing

3. Birthday present/forgot

4. Mow the lawn/rained

5. Take the day off/emergency

6. Call IT/didn't get round to it

7. Stop by after school/missed the bus

8. Re-read the report/received 20 emails before 9am.



A series of unexpected events

What happened at work yesterday? Nothing went as planned... Read the dialogue below and continue it with your teacher.



Hi, Janet. Did you manage to send out those invoices like I asked?

Oh, no, I'm so sorry! I was going to but when I got in, my computer just wouldn't boot up. I was going to use yours instead, but the new intern was using it.



Well, that's unfortunate, but these things happen. Did you call Mr Smith back about his computer?

I hoped you would be understanding! No, I was going to call him yesterday afternoon when I got back from lunch, but my phone is out of order...





Excuses, excuses



You were asked to prepare some very important documents for today's meeting, but, despite having a week to do so, life got in the way. Try to explain your way out of it! Remember: the passive voice could help you shoulder less of the blame...



Use your imagination

Think of a situation that describes this picture.

Imagine 4 different people involved in the situation.

Come up with a sentence which describes each person's perspective of what happened using the future in the past.



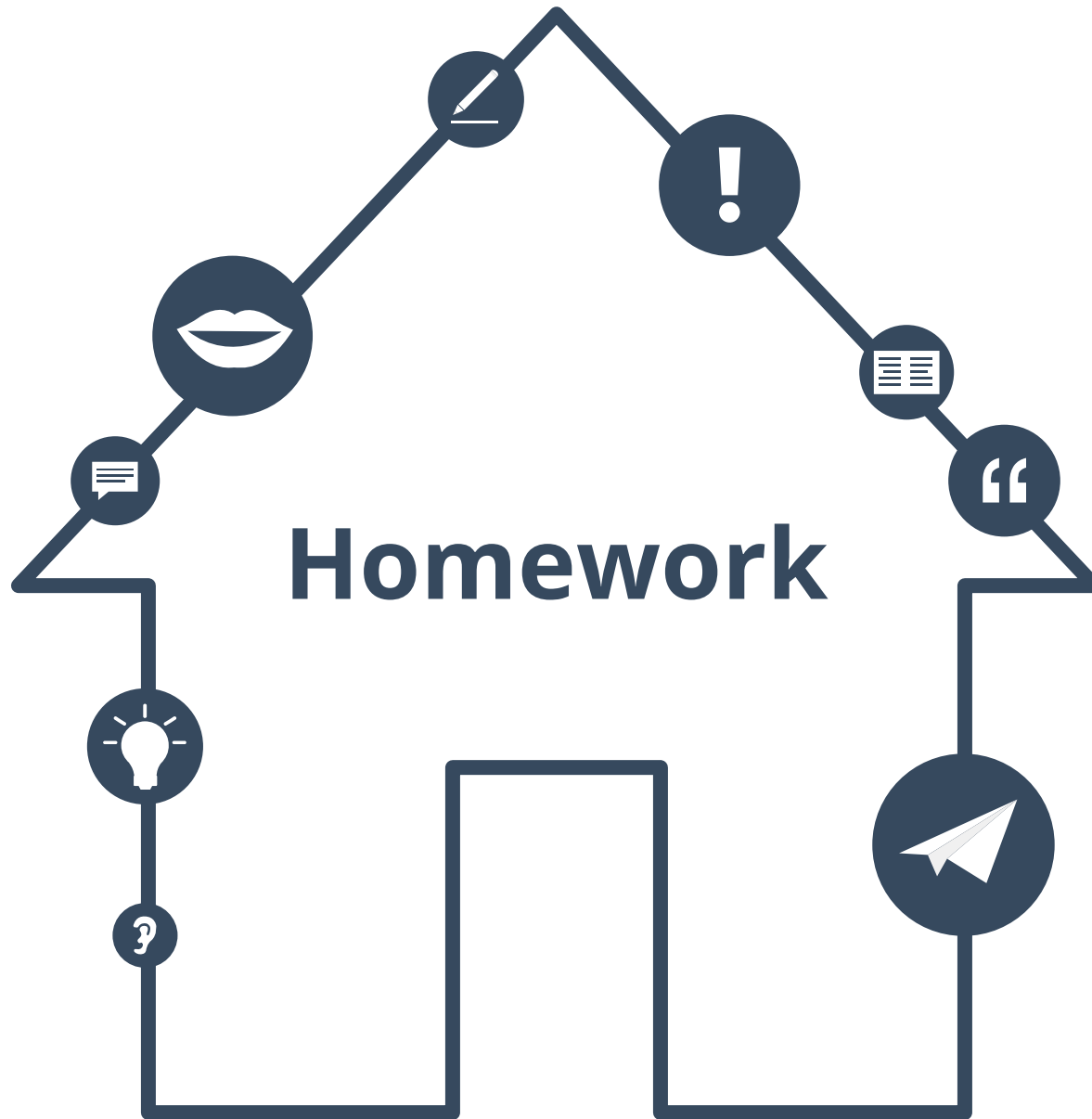


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Evaluation

How did you find today's lesson? What did you find easy? What was hard?





Writing activity

Using the structures discussed in this lesson, use this slide to write a note to your boss to explain why there was an error in his report. There was a long and complicated story which led up to you not re-reading it before submission...

Write at least 5 sentences.

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