

Would ★★

These are the three main ways we use *would*.

1 Would as conditional



“I would continue if I knew which way to go.”

More examples

I would help you if I could.

If I had the money I would buy the car.

If I went on a diet, I would lose weight.

2 Would for habitual, repeated actions



Every morning he would get up five o'clock and milk the cows.

(We use *would* for habitual actions that we do willingly)

More examples

He would always drink tea in the afternoons

To relax, she would often spend the afternoon watching a movie.

3 Would for very polite requests



Would you come in, please?

(***Will you*** is polite, ***would you*** is very polite)

More examples

If you would be so kind as to wait for one moment, we will be able to assist.

If you would allow me to check your invitation, we can admit you....

Quick check

Tick one box in each row:

Column 1 = conditional; column 2 = habits; column 3 = polite

	1	2	3
1 Would you please take a seat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 I would be thankful if he gave us some real assistance.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 She would always stay long after everyone else had left.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Please carry this for me, if you would be so kind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 He would sit outside and smoke a cigar after dinner.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 If you made an effort you would get the job.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 She would pass the test if she studied.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 Remain seated a little longer, if you would be so kind.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 When I was young I would try to meet girls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 If you didn't sit in the sun for so long you wouldn't get sunburnt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>