

Using would

Would is a modal auxiliary verb. It is used as the past tense of 'will' in indirect speech.

Direct: He said to me, 'I will do my job conscientiously.'

Indirect speech: He told me that he would do his job conscientiously.

Direct speech: She said, 'I will come.'

Indirect speech: She said that she would come.

The expression 'would rather' is used to show preference for one of two options.

They would rather die than submit.

He would rather starve than beg.

Would can also be used to express past habits.

She would not listen to anybody.

He would spend hours talking to himself.

Would can make a request more polite.

Would you allow me to use your computer?

Would you mind if I opened the window?

Would is often used to make invitations more polite.

Would you have dinner with us tonight?

Would you attend the inauguration ceremony of our new showroom?

Would can express willingness or intention

I would go there if you want me to do that.

Would can express determination.

I would stand by you through thick and thin.

Would is used in conditional clauses to talk about imaginary or unreal situations.

If he worked hard, he would pass.

If he had not misbehaved in the class, the teacher would not have punished him.