

Would and should

Would is the past tense of will in indirect speech.

He said, 'I will come.'

He said that he would come.

Should is the past tense of shall in indirect speech.

With second and third person pronouns, would is used to express a wish or preference.

He would rather stay at home than work.

She would rather have tea than coffee.

Should can be used with first person pronouns to express a wish or preference.

I should like to go to the pictures tonight.

Would can be used with 2nd person pronouns to make a polite request.

Would you mind opening the window?

Would you mind moving a bit?

Should can be used with nouns and pronouns of all persons to express an obligation or an assumption.

You should be more punctual.

They should be more considerate.

It should be possible to do it.

They should reach home anytime now.

Should have + past participle can be used to talk about past events which did not happen.

I should have phoned John this morning, but I forgot.

Would can be used to talk about past habits and typical characteristics.

Sometimes he would bring us little presents without saying why.

Stressed would can be used to criticize people's behavior.

She was a good girl, but she WOULD talk about herself all the time.