

## Modal verbs – will/would

### Introduction

1) We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

Modal verbs fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as *helping verbs*). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

2) We normally use *will* to speak about the future, though it is also classified as a modal verb. We use the modal verb *will* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *will*. Negatives are formed with *not*. Contracted forms are used (*won't*).

We can use the modal verb *will*:

a) to express rapid decision.

*Which one? – Hmm, I **will** have the tuna sandwich.*

b) to express thoughts or beliefs about the future.

*I think they **will** remain friends forever.*

c) to make an offer, a promise, or a threat.

*I **will not** disappoint you!*

d) to talk about predictable behaviour.

*He **will** eat chocolate when he feels anxious.*

Note that we use *won't* when someone refuses to do something.

*I tried reassuring him, but he **won't** listen to me.*

We use the modal verb *would* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *would*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

We can use the modal verb *would*:

a) as a polite invitation or to offer.

***Would you like to spend this evening together with me?***

b) to describe a prediction.

***It would be nice to be a little bit funnier.***

c) not to sound impolite when disagreeing with someone.

***I wouldn't put it like that.***

d) to describe past habits.

***She would fall asleep when she was on a train.***

Note that we use *wouldn't* when someone refused to do something.

***James said that he wouldn't help us at all.***

### Short Story Dialogue

***– Would you like to go to the movies tonight?***

*– I certainly would!*

***– I think you'll like this one. You like comedies, right?***

*– That's right. When I was a kid I would watch comedies from the 90s. It would be cool to see some older movies on a big screen.*

*– Yeah, that would be cool. Shall we go now though?*

***– I'll make a quick call and we can go then, OK?***

*– Yes, sure. Take your time.*

**Independent Practice – will/would**

**1) Fill in the gaps with *will* or *would*.**

- a. I ..... call you later, sorry.
- b. Chris ..... hang up whenever I brought up that issue.
- c. If I had a chance, I ..... become an astronaut.
- d. We ..... be very grateful if you could send these prints immediately.

**2) Match the sentences.**

a. I don't mind if you stay.	1. You can't ignore my question.
b. Will you say anything?	2. It would be amazing actually.
c. Will he ever grow up?	3. He is so immature.

**3) Answer the questions.**

a. What will you do tomorrow?	..... .....
b. Do you think that you will win the lottery one day?	..... .....
c. What would you do if you were a mayor of your city?	..... .....

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**Independent Practice: Answers – will/would**

**1) Fill in the gaps with *will* or *would*.**

- a. I **will** call you later, sorry.
- b. Chris **would** hang up whenever I brought up that issue.
- c. If I had a chance, I **would** become an astronaut.
- d. We **would** be very grateful if you could send these prints immediately.

**2) Match the sentences.**

a. I don't mind if you stay.	2. It would be amazing actually.
b. Will you say anything?	1. You can't ignore my question.
c. Will he ever grow up?	3. He is so immature.

**3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:**

- a. I will stay at home and relax.
- b. No, I don't think that I'll win the lottery one day.
- c. If I were a mayor of my city, I would improve the ecological situation.