



Would you like a cup of tea?

That would be nice.

Would you pour, please?

When we were young, my grandmother would always drink tea at 4 o'clock.

I would have a cup of tea if I were you. It'll help you to relax.

They said they would have the tea ready when we arrive.

Presentation

Use *would*:

- in conditionals, to describe a hypothetical situation: *If they'd asked, we **would** have made them a cup of tea. / I **would** have a cup of tea if I were you.*
- to talk about the future in the past, e.g. to report an intention, expectation or decision: *They said they **would** have the tea ready when we arrive.*
- to describe a habitual action (but not a state) in the past: *When we were young, my grandmother **would** always drink tea at 4 o'clock.*
- to indicate a person or thing's refusal to do something in the past: *I tried to convince her but she **wouldn't** change her mind.*
- in polite offers and requests: **Would** you like a cup of tea? / **Would** you pour, please?
- in polite responses to a request or invitation: *That **would** be great – thanks.*
- to express an opinion or hope less forcefully or in a more indirect way:
*I **would** think that the later train would be better. (= I think ...)*
*I **would** have hoped that you'd finish by today. (= I expected ...)*

Exercises

1 Write the words in order to make sentences. Two sentences are questions.

- 1 helped was I away have would but I
- 2 like sandwich you a would
- 3 I they'd apologize would hoped that have
- 4 the council they build a new would road said
- 5 would we in this park play as children
- 6 the wouldn't car morning just start this
- 7 bother you wouldn't if I I were
- 8 check would homework you my

2 Make these sentence more polite or indirect using *would*.

- 1 Do you want a cup of coffee?
- 2 Buy me some more bread.
- 3 Which book do you want to buy?
- 4 I hoped you'd be more apologetic for your behaviour.
- 5 A: Would you like to come to my party?
B: Sure. That's great.

3 Find one mistake in five of the six sentences. Which sentence is correct?

- 1 Would you like going somewhere nice this evening?
- 2 As a young man, I would spent all my money on CDs.
- 3 The brake on my bicycle wouldn't work this morning.
- 4 I'd have expect that you'd have cleaned up the kitchen after cooking.
- 5 Would you to lend me some money?
- 6 I wouldn't have gone if I would known you were going too.

4 Read the situations and make a sentence using *would*.

- 1 You are in your car and see your neighbour waiting for the bus. Offer to give her a lift.
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- 2 Your friend feels ill but doesn't know whether to take a day off work. Give him some advice.
.....
- 3 The council had planned to build a new sports centre but they never did. Complain about it to a colleague.
.....
- 4 When you were eight, your family went to the same beach every summer. Tell your friend about it.
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- 5 A friend invites you to her wedding. Respond.
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