

Here is Audio Word Study #024 from Jane Lawson at DailyStep.com

## WOULD (modal verb) Part 2

In this word study, we continue looking at meanings of WOULD. You can see the first 4 meanings in my last blog.

**Meaning 5:** 'Would' is the past of 'will'. We use it to talk about what someone was willing to do or what something was able to do.

**Examples:** My daughter wouldn't get out of bed this morning.  
The van would not start again today.

**Meaning 6:** We use 'would' to refer to an intention from the point of view of the past. We also use it with this meaning when we are reporting what someone else has said.

**Examples:** He said he would write to her every week (*note: his actual words were "I will write to you every week".*).

They promised that they would fix it. (*note: their actual words were "We promise that we will fix it".*)

I couldn't find anyone who would help me (*note: this means "I couldn't find anyone who was willing to help me."*)

I asked her to explain, but she wouldn't (*note: this means that she refused to explain.*)

**Meaning 7:** We use 'would' to talk about actions (not states) in the past that happened often or always.

**Examples:** Every morning, my grandmother would water her flowers. (*note: we can also say "Every morning, my grandmother used to water her flowers."*)

When I was a child, we would play in the park every evening after school. (*note: we can also say "When I was a child, we used to play in the park every evening after school."*)

It is incorrect to say "When I was a child we would live in the countryside", because living is a state, not an action. It is correct to say "When I was a child we used to live in the countryside".

**Meaning 8:** We use 'would' to suggest that what happens is expected because it is typical, especially of a person's behaviour, and also that we disapprove of it

**Examples:** "Philip called to say he'll be an hour late." "He would – he's always late!"  
"I've lost my phone so I couldn't call you." "You would! How many phones have you lost now?"

**That's all for today's word study! I will teach other uses of WOULD in a future audio blog!**

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