

Here is Audio Word Study #026 from Jane Lawson at DailyStep.com

## WOULD (modal verb) Part 4

In this word study, we finish looking at meanings of WOULD. You can see [part 1](#), [part 2](#) and [part 3](#) of the meanings of WOULD in some of my other recent audio blogs.

Remember that in English grammar, 'would' is a modal verb, or modal. Modals give a special meaning to a verb, and they are always followed by the bare infinitive form of the verb, in other words, the infinitive without 'to'. So, for example, it is wrong to say 'I would to like a cup of coffee', and it is correct to say 'I would like a cup of coffee.'

**Meaning 12:** We use WOULD to refer to future time from the point of view of the past.

**Examples:** He said he would finish it the next day. (*note: His actual words, at some time in the past, were "I will finish it tomorrow."*)

I knew it would be difficult to persuade her to marry me.

**Meaning 13:** We use WOULD HAVE to refer back to a time in the past from a point of view in the future.

**Example:** We thought they would have arrived by midnight, but they were delayed by traffic. (*note: In this example, before midnight on the day that they were due to arrive, our actual thoughts were "They will have arrived by midnight", meaning "They will be here at or before midnight."*)

**Meaning 14:** We use WOULD to refer to a situation that we can imagine happening.

**Examples:** I would hate to be late for my appointment. (*note: This means "If I imagine the idea of being late for my appointment, I hate that idea!"*)

I would do it myself, but I'm afraid I haven't got time. (*note: This means "I do not have time to do it, but if I had time, I would do it myself."*)

It would have been very exciting to see the football match live instead of on TV. (*note: In this sentence, I did not see the football match live, but if I had seen it, it would have been very exciting.*)

**That's all for today's word study! Please try to write your own sentences using WOULD, as this will help you to remember its meanings.**

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