

VERBS, FUTURE IN THE PAST

There are two major ways to describe action in the future that originated in the past:

1/ Use **“was/were going to”** in place of **“will”**

2/ Use **“would”** in place of **“will”**

1. THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING “WAS GOING TO”

“was/were going to” can be used to talk about actions or events in the future that was planned or anticipated in the past.

Examples:

They **were going to start** their trip tomorrow, but they change their mind.

It **was going to be** my turn to wash the dishes, but I am not feeling well enough.

Were we going to have a meeting even if the boss doesn't show up?

The plane **was going to arrive** as scheduled despite the bad weather.

John **was planning to play** tennis tomorrow even if it will be hectic.

She **was going to have** dinner with Mike today, but God has another plan.

They **were going to get** married if war didn't break out.

Was the train going to arrive on time despite numerous delays?

The rain **was not going to come** as forecasted.

Julie **was going to take** the test tomorrow, but she is ill-prepared.

2. THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING “WOULD”

Use **“would”** in place of **“will”** to describe actions or events in the future that was planned or anticipated in the past.

Examples:

It **would be** perfect if you can come tomorrow.

I **would help** you do your homework if I have the time.

Would they **come** if invited?

We **would try** to start school next week, but it's unlikely.

He most likely **would love** his new adopted country.

I thought the dog **would run** with me in the morning.

You **would feel** at home right away.

Would she **try** her best despite the circumstances?

I always knew you **would succeed** in your college application.

If you didn't drag your feet, you **would have been** home by now.

Would you **help** me get ready for the party?

Would are often abbreviated as **'d** and **would not** as **wouldn't**.

Examples:

I **would** love to help -> I'**d** love to help

She would not be here -> **She wouldn't** be here

We would be more successful if he helps -> **We'd** be more successful if he helps

That would not be a bad idea -> **That wouldn't** be a bad idea

That would be great! -> **That'd** be great!

He would be welcome here -> **He'd** be welcome here

They would order pizza for dinner -> **They'd** order pizza for dinner

It would be great to see you -> **It'd** be great to see you

Practice1: Change the sentence to **future in the past** using "was/were going to".

1. He **will join** the army next week.
2. She **will go** to the library after school.
3. Dad **will not finish** work before dusk.
4. They **will not make** the same mistake again.
5. She **will get up** before dawn.
6. They **will demand** justice.

7. She **will not accept** the responsibility.
8. **Shall we have** a party when he comes?
9. He **will have** his parents coming over for dinner this Saturday.
10. I **will make** you feel comfortable.
11. She **will write** to him every week.
12. Love **shall conquer** all.
13. She **will make** a great teacher.
14. He **will be** here by now.
15. Did your parent ever think you **will be** a general?
16. I **will not have gone** this way.
17. I thought my car **will be** fixed by today.
18. **Will they have** second thoughts?
19. **Will she be** happy to see me today?
20. You **will never understand**.

Answers1:

1. He **was going to join** the army next week.
2. She **was going to go** to the library after school.
3. Dad **was going to finish** work before dusk.
4. They **were not going to make** the same mistake again.
5. She **was going to get up** before dawn.
6. They **were going to demand** justice.
7. She **was not going to accept** the responsibility.
8. **Were we going to have** a party when he comes?
9. He **was going to have** his parents coming over for dinner this Saturday.
10. I **was going to make** you feel comfortable.
11. She **was going to write** to him every week.
12. Love **was going to conquer** all.
13. She **was going to make** a great teacher.
14. He **was going to be** here by now.
15. Did your parent ever think you **were going to be** a general?
16. I **was not going to have gone** this way.
17. I thought my car **was going to be** fixed by today.
18. **Were they going to have** second thoughts?
19. **Was she going to be** happy to see me today?
20. You **were never going to understand**.

Practice2: Change the sentence to **future in the past** using “**would**”.

1. He **will join** the army next week.
2. She **will go** to the library after school.
3. Dad **will not finish** work before dusk.

4. They **will not make** the same mistake again.
5. She **will get up** before dawn.
6. They **will demand** justice.
7. She **will not accept** the responsibility.
8. **Shall we have** a party when he comes?
9. He **will have** his parents coming over for dinner this Saturday.
10. I **will make** you feel comfortable.
11. She **will write** to him every week.
12. Love **shall conquer** all.
13. She **will make** a great teacher.
14. He **will be** here by now.
15. Did your parent ever think you **will be** a general?
16. I **will not have gone** this way.
17. I thought my car **will be** fixed by today.
18. **Will they have** second thoughts?
19. **Will she be** happy to see me today?
20. You **will never** understand.

Answers2:

1. He **would join** the army next week.
2. She **would go** to the library after school.
3. Dad **would not finish** work before dusk.
4. They **would not make** the same mistake again.
5. She **would get up** before dawn.
6. They **would demand** justice.
7. She **would not accept** the responsibility.
8. **Would we have** a party when he comes?
9. He **would have** his parents coming over for dinner this Saturday.
10. I **would make** you feel comfortable.
11. She **would write** to him every week.
12. Love **would conquer** all.
13. She **would make** a great teacher.
14. He **would be** here by now.
15. Did your parent ever think you **would be** a general?
16. I **would not have gone** this way.
17. I thought my car **would be** fixed by today.
18. **Would they have** second thoughts?
19. **Would she be** happy to see me today?
20. You **would never** understand.