

Making Requests

Hello, in this lesson we will be exploring how we can use the words 'will' or 'would' in order to make a request.



What words do we use?

We can use the words 'will' or 'would' in order to make a request. Let's take a look at the words first.

Would: 'Would' comes first in the verb phrase (after the subject and before another verb):

*My parents **would read** to me.*



Rules:

Would cannot be used with another modal verb:

*When Danni closed the door, she thought she **would** be alone.*



Not: ... she thought she would might be alone or ... she thought she might would be alone.



NEGATIVE
 POSITIVE

Negative form

The negative form of *would* is *wouldn't*.
We don't use *don't*, *doesn't*, *didn't* with *would*:
There **wouldn't** be any food in the house.



We use the full form *would not* in formal contexts or when we want to emphasise something:

Your father **would not** approve.





Question form

The subject and *would* change position to form questions. We don't use *do, does, did*:

Would that be a good idea?



Not: Does this would that be a good idea?



Or: Wouldn't that be a good idea?



***Would*: uses**

We often use *would* to make requests.
It is a more polite and indirect form of *will*.

<i>Will</i> you make dinner?	direct
<i>Would</i> you make dinner?	less direct

Would or will?

We can use *would* as a more formal or polite alternative to *will* in requests.

We often use the phrase *would you mind + -ing* in polite requests.



Will you give me a wake-up call at 7 am, please?

Would you mind giving me a wake-up call at 7 am, please?

Will you excuse me just one second?

Would you excuse me just one second?

Using *would* makes the request more formal and polite.

Would or Shall?

We use *shall* instead of *will* with *I* and *we* in rather formal contexts to make predictions and to talk about intentions or decisions.

It is much less common than *will*.



formal	less formal
<i>We shall remember this day forever.</i>	<i>We will remember this day forever.</i>