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Like simple future, future in the past has two different forms in English: would and was going to. Although the two forms can sometimes be used interchangeably, they often express two different meanings. FORM Would [would + VERB] Examples: I knew you would help him. I knew you would not help him. FORM Was/Were Going To [was/were +
going to + VERB] Examples: I knew you were going to go to the party. I knew you were not going to go to the party. USE 1 Future in the future in the future in the past follows the same basic rules as the
simple future. "Would" is used to volunteer or promise, and "was going to "is used to plan. Moreover, both forms can be used to make predictions about the future. Examples: I told you he was going to come to the party. I knew Julie would make dinner. Jane said Sam was going to bring his sister with him, but he came alone. I had a feeling that the
vacation was going to be a disaster. He promised he would send a postcard from Egypt. Like all future forms, future in the past cannot be used in clauses beginning with time expressions such as: when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Instead of using future in the past, you must use simple past. Examples: I already told
Mark that when he would arrive, we would go out for dinner. Not Correct I already told Mark that when he arrived, we would go out for dinner. I thought a beautiful
dinner was going to be made by Sally. More About Active / Passive Forms Learn English at Englishpage.com! In the English language, besides the well-known groups of tenses, there is another very interesting group. This group in
subordinate clauses for Agreement of Tenses (Sequence of Tenses). Remember to read How to learn English with audiobooks for FREE We use the Future in the Past to shape the future from the perspective of the past. To show the future in the Past to shape the future from the perspective of the past. To show the future in the Past to shape the future from the perspective of the past. To show the future from the perspective of the past.
Past is not at all difficult. Take a look at an example: We said that we would wait until the morning. This is a classic example of the use of the future in the Past as a separate tense. Others believe that the Future in the Past does not deserve to be an independent group of tenses.
It doesn't really matter. I highlight the Future in the Past as a separate group for convenience. So that you can see the formation and use of these tenses in one place. It seems to me that the Future in the Past is easier to study as a separate group, especially if you are learning it after you have learned the "classic" groups of the tenses. You should
remember that all groups of tenses have four forms: SimpleContinuous The Future in the Past also has these forms. But all forms of the Future in the Past always express future actions in relation to the past. We use the Future in the Past always express future actions in relation to the past.
in the past form. In other words, we use the Future in the past in subordinate clauses if in the past in subordinate clause "you would be angry" describes the future regarding this moment in the past. We cannot use the
Future Simple in this case! I thought you will be angry with me. In English, such a sentence is a mistake. If the predicate in the past, then in the past, then in the past, then in the past, then in the past to show what
happens after the action in the past in the main sentence. Jessica thought John would like the gift. In this sentence, we have a point in the past "Jessica thought". The second part is the future after this point. Although for us now both of these events are the past. Here are some more examples: He said he would be delighted to help you with your
accounts. I thought you would not come. He knew we would not get any lunch. Remember, in the main sentence that describes an event in the past tense. In a subordinate clause, we show the future relative to that past in the main clause. The good news is that we form the Future in the Past in much the same way as
classic future tenses. Therefore, if you know how to form: The Future SimpleThe Future Perfect Continuous then you will quickly understand how to form the Future Perfect Continuous then you will and
should instead of shall. This means that if in the Future Simple we say: I will do it... Then in the Future Simple in the Future Simple in the Future Perfect we say: I would have done it... Then in the Future Simple in the Future Simple in the Future Perfect we say: I will have done it... Then in the Future Simple in the F
nuance here. We used to use shall for the first person singular and plural for I and We. But today we use will instead of shall. Therefore, in the Past, instead of should, you can use would regardless of who is the subject. I would (should)He wouldShe
wouldIt wouldWe would (should)They wouldYou would To form an affirmative (positive) sentence in the Future Perfect, the Future Simple, the Future Simple, the Future Simple, the Future Simple, the Future Perfect, the Future Simple (you can
use should with I and We, but this form is rarely used). The formulas look like this: An affirmative sentence in The Future Continuous in the Past:
Subject (I, he, we, John, dog) + would be + main verb ending in -ing (watching, writing) + the rest of the sentence in The Future Perfect in the Past: Subject (I, you, they, people, boy, dog) + would have + the third form of the main verb (Read, Done, Seen, Passed)
 + the rest of the sentence. He said he would have done the project by the end of the year. An affirmative sentence in The Future Perfect Continuous in the Past: Subject (I, he, we, John, friends, dog) + would have been working for
ten years in this company. For comparison, look at the affirmative (positive) sentences of the future Simple in the Past: I would be
 working on the project The Future Perfect: I will have written the book. The Future Perfect Continuous in the Past: I would have been raining for 10 days To ask a question in the Future in the Past we use the same
formula as for interrogative (question) sentences of the Future Simple, the Future Simple, the Future Simple in the Past:
would + subject (I, you, John, dog, friends) + main verb in its base form (love, watch, jump) + the rest of the sentence. He asked would we do it again? A question sentence in The Future Continuous in the Past: would + subject (I, he, we, John, dog) + be + main verb ending in -ing (working, playing, walking) + rest of the sentence. I wondered would
she be working all week? A question sentence in The Future Perfect in the Past: would + subject (I, you, they, people, boy) + have + third form of the main verb (read, done, seen, passed) + rest of the sentence. Would have. Correct:
Would they have done the job? Incorrect: Would have they done the job? A question sentence in The Future Perfect Continuous in the Past: would + subject (I, he, we, John, friends, dog) + have + been + main verb with the -ing ending (working, playing, walking) + rest of the sentence. Would I have been studying it all night? Please note that in
questions we put only would at the beginning of the sentence! Not would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect: Would have been I studying it all night? Incorrect: Would have been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have been I studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? Incorrect would have I been studying it all night? I
and the forms of the Future in the Past. The Future Simple in the Past. Would she be working all week? The Future Continuous in the Past: Would they
have done the job? The Future Perfect Continuous: will I have been studying it all night? A Wh-Question is a question in which we want to know additional information besides a simple answer yes or no. We ask Wh-Questions using additional words or phrases:
whenwherewhyhow oftenwhat forwhat formula as for General or Yes/No Questions. Only at the beginning of this formula, we put an additional, question word or phrase: Why would you do it again? Where would she be working all week? When would they have done the job? What
would I have been studying it all night? We answer the Future in the Past questions in the Past questions in other future forms. In a short answer, we use the formula: Yes or No + Subject + Auxiliary verb from the questions in other future forms. In a short answer is negative) The Future Simple in the Past questions in other future forms. In a short answer is negative or No + Subject + Auxiliary verb from the questions in other future forms.
Answer: Yes I would. Negative Answer: No I would not. In English grammar, we use Future forms. There are two
different forms to express future in the past: 'would' and 'was going to'. It is frequently used to express that some anticipated event does not occur or an expectation is canceled. These two forms can sometimes be used in these
constructions. Future in the past cannot be used in time clauses, such as when, while, before, after, by the time, as soon as, if, unless, etc. Consider the following sentences: These examples illustrate how future in the past is used. Rule 1: We use Future in the past with would to talk about a past future promise or prediction with no evidence. For
instance, she promised she would be there. Rule 2: We use Future in the Past with was/were going to to talk about a future in the past future firm plan, intention, or a prediction with evidence. This construction is used to describe events that were expected to happen. Rule 3: We use Future in the Past with was/were + the main verb +ing to talk about a future in
the past that was a personal arrangement. This is often referred to as a future relative. Choose a suitable Future in the Past structure. They were going to have guests that evening. They were having guests that evening. They were going to have guests that evening.
to talk about future plans in the past. The past progressive tense helps show future plans made in the past. In English grammar, the future-in-the-past is the use of "would or was/were going to" to refer to the future from the
perspective of some point in the past. As illustrated below, other verbs in the past progressive can also be used to convey this future-in-the-past perspective. Also known as: Prediction in the past maybe one day even taller than Frances, maybe one day even taller than perspective.
 Elizabeth. Maybe one day she would be the tallest woman in the world and she could join a circus.""She was sure that Boyne would never come back, that he had gone out of her sight as completely as if Death itself had waited that day on the threshold.""He had not believed her when she said they would meet only once.""Fred Ballard, a local
playwright friend of my mother, told her that I should go to his alma mater, Harvard and that he would make inquiries on my behalf, which he did without success." "[T]he future-in-the-past... is used where the speaker wishes to refer to a past time at which a particular event was still in the future, even though now, at the moment of speaking, it is
past. This particular combination frequently makes use of the semi-modal expression be going to since this is readily marked for the past. It is frequently used where some anticipated event does not occur or an expectation is canceled. Consider these examples: I was going to tell him, but he didn't give me a chance. I thought we were going to eat out
 tonight. She was going to qualify next year, but now it will take longer." "When an 'arranged-future-in-the-past,' as it is a future relative to the time of a past arrangement) concerns a personal arrangement, we normally use the progressive form of the past tense. This parallels the use of the present progressive
for arranged post-present situations. [Mary and Bill were stuffing a goose.] They were having guests that evening.[I didn't call him up to tell him the news because] I was going to his office the
next day. The use of the progressive past is possible even if the context makes it clear that the action planned was not actually performed." "Relative tenses represent deictic tenses. . . . Thus had sung is the future-in-the-past, is
(about) to sing the future-in-the-present, and will be (about) to sing the future-in-the-future. Coincident (relatively present) tenses are ignored by many contemporary theorists, though Lo Cascio (1982: 42) writes of the imperfect, which is considered in traditional grammar a present-in-the-past, as a past coincident tense." Robert I. Binnick,
 "Temporality and Aspectuality." Language Typology and Language Universals: An International Handbook, ed. by Martin Haspelmath. Walter de Gruyter, 2001. Joseph L. Cacibauda, After Laughing, Comes Crying: Sicilian Immigrants on Louisiana Plantations. Legas, 2009. Renaat Declerck, Susan Reed, and Bert Cappelle, The Grammar of the English
Tense System: A Comprehensive Analysis. Walter de Gruyter, 2006Ursula Dubosarsky, The Red Shoe. Roaring Book Press, 2006.Martin J. Endley, Linguistic Perspectives on English Grammar. Information Age, 2010Ted Sorensen, Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History. Harper, 2008.Edith Wharton, "Afterward," 1910. Have you ever spoken about
 something in the past tense but also presented information that happened in the future just beyond that point of time in the past, a concept that comes up more often than you'd think within English conversation. How to Talk About
the Future in the Past (Video) First, take a look at this video explaining the concepts in this post. Then, keep reading (or listen to a recording of this passage. I know, it sounds like a lot is going on, but let's look at the definition. The future in the past! Click below to listen to a recording of this passage.
concept of expressing the idea that, in the past you had a thought something would happen in the future beyond that thought, but now, that event is also in the past. Here's an example: I knew the dog was going to bark as soon as the mailman walked up. Whether your thoughts about the future were correct or not doesn't matter within this concept.
The dog in the above example could have barked or not. But the individual thought (in the past when talking about plans, possibilities, or predictions we had about things that happened. Click below to listen to a recording of this passage. Like the future simple tense, it
only has two forms: would + verb or was/were + going to + verb. The negative is formed by adding not. Examples using would go with him to the dance. We thought Joe wouldn't be able to compete in the tournament. He had a feeling that something would go
 wrong this time. She promised me that she would never break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break the record. I had a feeling they were going to break the record. I had a feeling they were going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples using was/were + going to break my heart. Examples was was a final was
you weren't going to come because you sprained your ankle. Remember that you cannot use the future in the past if you begin the clause with a time expression like when, before, after, or as soon as. In that case, you would revert to the past if you begin the clause with a time expression like when, before, after, or as soon as. In that case, you would revert to the past if you begin the clause with a time expression like when, before, after, or as soon as. In that case, you would revert to the past if you begin the clause with a time expression like when, before, after, or as soon as the game would start, I would be focused and ready to
play. - Incorrect I had a feeling that as soon as the game started, I would be focused and ready to play. - Correct Often, English students use will instead of would when using the future in the past. After all, it seems like you're speaking about something in the actual future. Don't make the mistake of falling into that trap. With this article, you now
 have the resources you need to properly form the clause. More from Magoosh Exercises Explanation Downloads Please wait... Sometimes, we talk about a past event and want to refer to something that happened in the future at that particular point in the past. When we want to express future time seen from the past, we use the past of the regular
future forms. Check the following sentences to see the future forms and their corresponding past forms. Download full-size image from Pinterest We can also talk about the future seen from the past using other ways to express future. Check the table below.
with a subscription plan that includes additional features at an affordable price. One of those features will be PDF downloads. Learn more! I've had a few queries lately asking for more information about using the future tenses in the past. This is used when we want to talk about events yet to occur but from a past perspective. This is a topic that was
actually added to the later versions of The English Tenses Practical Grammar Guide, and can be found in full there, but I thought it would be useful to share it here too. When you want to discuss time from a different perspective, for instance to show a future time seen in the past, tenses must be backshifted. This involves changing a verb form to a
past position (e.g. "I say" -> "I said"). This article will cover such construction and use for the future forms). Future time in the past is formed with either would or was/were going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or am / are going to in place of will or a will or 
after an introducing clause in the past (for example with reported speech). Regular Future Future football. He said I would eat dinner later. You are going to read more. You said you were going to read more. We will be watching a film. We thought we would be watching a film. They are going to read more. You said you were going to read more.
 were going to be playing football. He will have finished the essay. He would have finished the essay. She will have been living there for a long time. The forms of would or was/were going to may be used interchangeably, though the differences of uses between will and going to for the future generally
apply. Future time in the past is used to show that in the past it was thought I would travel to Africa at the end of the year. She was going to learn to dance. This use of the future in the past may show a
 future event is yet to be completed, and was recognised in the past. This morning, he started to think he was going to fail his exam. This example shows when he started to believe this future event (to be going to fail his exam. This example shows when he started to believe this future. Future time in the past may clearly show something did not happen, though it was
expected to. She was going to keep the letter, but her father tore it up. The advert said they would perform at 10pm, but they were late. These examples shows past future plans that were completed. I told you we would win the game, and we did. This
use usually emphasises that the completed result was predicted before it happened. The future simple in the past, as in the above examples, is used for similar purposes to the future simple. For more complicated future times you can use other future times you can use other future simple.
in the past can show that in the past it was thought an ongoing event would be complete at a specific time in the future: On Monday we thought that by Friday the boy would
have returned. Note, the future perfect in the past is also used as part of third conditional statements. This is a specific construction that demonstrates a past possibility. If we had caught our train, we would have been home by now. The future perfect continuous in the past is also used as part of third conditional statements. This is a specific construction that demonstrates a past possibility. If we had caught our train, we would have been home by now. The future perfect continuous in the past is also used as part of third conditional statements.
ongoing for a certain duration of time in the future: It was believed that the students would have been studying for over four years by the time that your statement is said, the
past time that your statement refers to, and the future time that the past action or event referred to. I hope this helps as an introduction to the future in the past! For more on the English tenses in general, do check out The English tenses in general tenses in genera
check out the ELB store, where we've got a range of bestselling books to improve your grammar and skills. Future-in-the-past tense uses 'would' or 'was/were going to' to talk about future plans in the past. The past progressive tense helps show future plans made in the past, like having guests or traveling. The semi-modal expression be going to' is
often used for canceled or changed plans in the past. In English grammar, the future-in-the-past is the use of "would or was/were going to" to refer to the future from the perspective of some point in the past. As illustrated below, other verbs in the past progressive can also be used to convey this future-in-the-past perspective. Also known as:
 Prediction in the past "Matilda stretched herself out, feeling her bones getting longer and longer. In a little while she would be taller than Frances, maybe one day even taller than Elizabeth. Maybe one day she would be taller than Frances, maybe one day she would be taller than Frances, maybe one day she would be taller than Elizabeth.
of her sight as completely as if Death itself had waited that day on the threshold.""He had not believed her when she said they would meet only once.""Fred Ballard, a local playwright friend of my mother, told her that I should go to his alma mater, Harvard and that he would make inquiries on my behalf, which he did without success." "[T]he future
in-the-past... is used where the speaker wishes to refer to a past time at which a particular event was still in the future, even though now, at the moment of speaking, it is past. This particular event was still in the future, even though now, at the moment of speaking, it is past. This particular event was still in the future, even though now, at the moment of speaking, it is past.
anticipated event does not occur or an expectation is canceled. Consider these examples: I was going to eat out tonight. She was going to eat out tonight we were going to eat out tonight we were going to eat out tonight. She was going to eat out tonight we were going to eat out tonight. She was going to eat out tonight we were going to eat out tonight. She was going to eat out tonight we were going to eat out tonight.
relative to the time of a past arrangement) concerns a personal arrangement, we normally use the progressive form of the past tense. This parallels the use of the present progressive for arranged post-present situations. [Mary and Bill were stuffing a goose.] They were having guests that evening. [There was no point in inviting the Robinsons, as] they
were leaving the day before the party. [The man was very nervous.] He was getting married that morning. [I didn't call him up to tell him the news because] I was going to his office the next day. The use of the progressive past is possible even if the context makes it clear that the action planned was not actually performed. "Relative tenses represent
deictic tenses. . . . Thus had sung is the past-in-the-past, has sung the past-in-the-present, and will-have-sung the future-in-the-future. Similarly, would sing is the future-in-the-past, is (about) to sing the future-in-the-past, and will be (about) to sing the future-in-the-past, and will be (about) to sing the future-in-the-past, is (about) to sing the future-in-the-past, and will be (about) to sing the future-in-the-past, and
theorists, though Lo Cascio (1982: 42) writes of the imperfect, which is considered in traditional grammar a present-in-the-past, as a past coincident tense." Robert I. Binnick, "Temporality and Aspectuality." Language Typology and Language T
Cacibauda, After Laughing, Comes Crying: Sicilian Immigrants on Louisiana Plantations. Legas, 2009. Renaat Declerck, Susan Reed, and Bert Cappelle, The Grammar of the English Tense System: A Comprehensive Analysis. Walter de Gruyter, 2006. Martin J. Endley, Linguistic Perspectives
on English Grammar, Information Age, 2010Ted Sorensen, Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History, Harper, 2008, Edith Wharton, "Afterward," 1910.
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