

How do I say **would** in French?

There are different ways of translating **would**.

would can express various situations and here, we will look at **WOULD** as expression of a condition (with IF)or a habitual action:

1- would as a condition with if :

In the case of a condition with IF, WOULD is in the conditional tense:

If I had the time, **I would** travel

Si j'avais le temps, je **voyagerais** (conditional tense of voyager)

You can have a similar sentence with BUT instead of IF

I would travel, but I do not have the time

Je **voyagerais**, mais je n'ai pas le temps

2- would is also the expression of a habit in the past

WOULD as a habit in the past is translated in the imperfect tense.

I would always **buy** a cake on Saturdays

J'**achetais** toujours un gâteau le samedi.

In this case, I would buy = I used to buy, so every sentences containing "used to" will also be translated in the imperfect.

I used to read a lot when I was younger

je **lisais** beaucoup quand j'étais plus jeune

In this sentence, both verbs are in the imperfect, because both actions happened at the same time in the past.