

# 60 The future in the past

There are a number of constructions in English that you can use to describe thoughts about the future that someone had at some point in the past.

⚙️ **New language** "Would" and "was going to"

🅰️ **Vocabulary** Changing plans

🧩 **New skill** Saying what you thought

## 60.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING "WOULD"

Where you would use "will" to talk about a future event from the present, you use "would" to talk about your past view of it.



I think I **will** finish the gardening today. It shouldn't take too long.

I thought I **would** finish today, but there is still a lot left to do.



## 60.2 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORDS IN EACH SENTENCE

I thought I ~~will~~ / **would** go to France last summer, but I didn't. I **will** / ~~would~~ go next year instead.

- 1 David said that he **will** / **would** try to get me a ticket to the game, but he **doesn't** / **didn't** manage to.
- 2 I **would** / **will** buy the movie on DVD. I thought I **will** / **would** see it at the movie theater, but I didn't.
- 3 Last year she thought she **will** / **would** be promoted, but she wasn't. Maybe next year she **would** / **will** be.
- 4 I **bring** / **brought** all the food for the picnic because I knew that Tom **won't** / **wouldn't** remember.
- 5 We knew that the concert **will** / **would** be amazing, so we **buy** / **bought** really good tickets.
- 6 My brother promised that he **won't** / **wouldn't** show anyone pictures of me when I **was** / **were** little.



## 60.3 KEY LANGUAGE THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING "WAS GOING TO"

Where you would use "going to" to talk about a future event from the present, you use "was/were going to" to talk about your past view of it.



This traffic is awful! I think  
**I'm going to** be late for work.

I thought **I was going to** be  
late, but I'm right on time.



## 60.4 MARK THE SENTENCES THAT ARE CORRECT



We were going to walk into town, but then it started to rain.



We are going to walk into town, but then it started to rain.



Vinesh was going to help me with the housework, but he went out.



Vinesh would help me with the housework, but he went out.



He says he wasn't going to study until his tutor arrived.



He said he wasn't going to study until his tutor arrived.



I would cook him dinner, but he'd already done it.



I was going to cook him dinner, but he'd already done it.



Dave said he was going to bring his girlfriend, but he didn't.



Dave said he would going to bring his girlfriend, but he didn't.



He was going to apply to go to college, but he changed his mind.



He would apply to go to college, but he changed his mind.



We would take a taxi home, but there weren't any available.



We were going to take a taxi home, but there weren't any available.



## 60.5 KEY LANGUAGE THE FUTURE IN THE PAST USING THE PAST CONTINUOUS

You can also use the past continuous to talk about an arranged future event from a time in the past.



LAST MONDAY MORNING



LAST MONDAY AFTERNOON



NOW

Jenny **was** extremely **nervous** on Monday morning.  
She **was taking** her driving test that afternoon.



## 60.6 SAY EACH SENTENCE OUT LOUD IN THE PAST TENSE

They are thinking of telling him the good news about his job.

*They **were** thinking of telling him the good news about his job.*



1 Sarah is planning to take her children to the park on Tuesday.

*She **was** planning to take her children to the park on Tuesday.*



2 Peter's nervous because he's meeting his girlfriend's parents.

*Peter **was** nervous because he **was** meeting his girlfriend's parents.*



3 I am planning to go out that evening because my parents are having guests over.

*I **was** planning to go out that evening because my parents **were** having guests over.*



4 We can't make it to the party on Friday because we're visiting some friends that day.

*We **were** can't make it to the party on Friday because we **were** visiting some friends that day.*



5 I'm planning to book a vacation just after the New Year.

*I **was** planning to book a vacation just after the New Year.*





## 60.7 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND DECIDE WHICH THINGS ACTUALLY HAPPENED



### 60 ✓ CHECKLIST

⚙️ "Would" and "was going to"

Aa Changing plans

👾 Saying what you thought

### ⌚ REVIEW THE ENGLISH YOU HAVE LEARNED IN UNITS 57–60

NEW LANGUAGE	SAMPLE SENTENCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UNIT
"WISH" FOR FUTURE HOPES	I <b>wish</b> I <b>could</b> move somewhere warm. She <b>wishes</b> her teacher <b>would</b> give her less work.	<input type="checkbox"/>	57.1
THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS WITH "WILL"	In five years' time I <b>will be working</b> in a restaurant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	58.1
THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS AS A MATTER OF COURSE	I'll be <b>driving</b> past the store anyway. Will you be <b>coming</b> into work tomorrow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	58.6 58.7
THE FUTURE CONTINUOUS TO TALK ABOUT THE PRESENT	He'll be <b>working</b> on his presentation by now.	<input type="checkbox"/>	58.11
THE FUTURE PERFECT	Cai <b>will have read</b> all his course books by next week.	<input type="checkbox"/>	59.1
THE FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS	In September, I <b>will have been working</b> here for a year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	59.6
THE FUTURE IN THE PAST	I thought I <b>would</b> finish the gardening today. I thought I <b>was going to</b> be late.	<input type="checkbox"/>	60.1, 60.3, 60.5