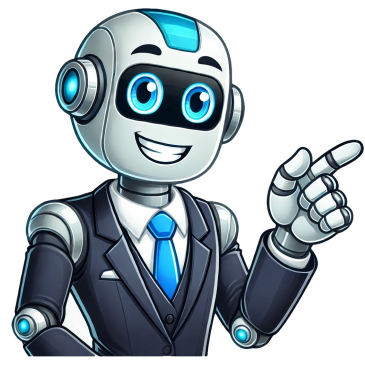


I'm not a bot



In English grammar, we use Future in the Past to refer to the future from the perspective of some point in the past. To do so, we use the grammar constructions would or was/were going to or was/were + the main verb in the present progressive form (i.e., +ing) as 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 interchangeably, but often express different meanings. It is important to understand how the past tense is 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 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 (to have) guests that evening. They would have guests that evening. They were going to have guests that evening. They were having guests that evening. 'Future in the Past' is a grammar structure we use to talk about a future action that has already happened because we are talking about it from the perspective of the past.This can be a tricky grammar topic because we are dealing with an unnatural timeline. In order to use this grammar structure correctly, it is important to know your Basic Future Tenses and Alternative Future Expressions. We will be modifying these structures to talk about future actions that have happened in the past.Here is a quick summary of Basic Future Tenses with examples that we will be modifying in this lesson.I'm sure it will be a great year.(will + inf = future predictions based on opinion)I promise I will come to your birthday party.(will + inf = future decisions made in the moment of speaking)I know it is going to be a great year, because I'm starting a new job.(be going to + inf = future predictions with evidence)We are going to make many grammar videos this year.(be going to + inf = future personal plans/intentions)I am meeting my friend after work.(present continuous = future arrangements involving others)In all of these examples, we talk about the future from now (the present). You can see this in the timeline below.When we use Future in the Past, we simply use the past form of the verbs in each structure. Let's look at each one by function.To talk about future predictions based on opinion, we say:I'm sure it will be a great year.(will + inf = future predictions based on opinion)Using Future in the Past, this becomes:I was sure it would be a great year (and it was/wasn't!)(would + inf = prediction from the past about the future based on opinion)Do not forget to put the other main verbs in the sentence in the past form. As this future action has already happened, it is common to finish the sentence with a result (e.g. and it was/wasn't). The timeline of this sentence (and other Future in the Past structures) looks like this:Similarly, when we are talking about spontaneous decisions, or decisions made in the moment, we use the same structure.I promise I will come to your birthday party.(will + inf = future decisions made in the moment of speaking)Using Future in the Past, this becomes:I promised I would come to your birthday party.(would + inf = past decisions for the future made in the moment)When talking about future predictions with evidence, we say:I know it is going to be a great year, because I'm starting a new job.(be going to + inf = future predictions with evidence)Using Future in the Past, this becomes:I knew it was going to be a great year, because I started a new job.(was/were going to + inf = prediction from the past about the future with evidence)Similarly, to talk about personal future plans or intentions, we say:We are going to make many grammar videos this year.(be going to + inf = future personal plans/intentions)Using Future in the Past, this becomes:We were going to make many grammar videos last year, but we didn't because of the lockdown.(was/were going to + inf = unmet intentions in the past)This example contains a time phrase (e.g. this year), so it is important to maintain time consistency by putting it into a past form (i.e. last year). This particular structure is often used when making excuses for when you didn't do something, but originally planned to. It is important to remember that the action did NOT happen.Here are some other examples using this common structure.I'm so sorry, I was going to call you, but my kid had an accident at school.(= I planned to call, but I didn't.)Sorry, honey, I was going to do the dishes, but the football just started.(= I planned to do the dishes, but I didn't.)To talk about future arrangements, we say:I am meeting my friend after work.(present continuous = future arrangements involving others)Using Future in the Past, we can say: I left work early because I was meeting my friend.(past continuous = arrangements in the past which happened)It is important to note here that when we use this structure, it is known that the arrangement happened.When we want to talk about a future arrangement in the future that did NOT happen, we can use the following structures.I was supposed to meet my friend, but I had to work late.(was/were supposed to + inf = most common way)I was meant to meet my friend, but I had to work late.(was/were meant to + inf = also common)I was due to meet my friend, but I had to work late.(was/were due to + inf = formal and uncommon)In the present, we use 'be about to + inf' to talk about actions that are going to happen very soon. For example:I am about to get on the train, so I'll call you later.(be about to + inf = future actions that are going to happen very soon)Using Future in the Past, we say:I was about to get on the train when I heard the emergency alarm go off.(was/were about to + inf = interrupted future action in the past)We use this structure to talk about future actions in the past that were going to happen very soon, but were interrupted and so did NOT happen. This structure is extremely common and is almost always used in casual conversation.We can emphasise the 'very soon' by adding the adverb 'just' between 'was/were' and 'about'.Oh, hey! I was just about to call you. This structure has the same meaning as 'be about to + inf', that a future action is going to happen very soon. This structure is used to sound more exaggerated.I was on the point of quitting my job, but then I remembered I had bills to pay.(was/were on the point of + ing = interrupted future action in the past)Similarly, we can use the following expressions to mean the same thing.I was on the verge of asking her out, but then I found out she already had a boyfriend.(was/were on the verge of + ing)The company was on the brink of collapse when luckily an investor arrived to save it.(was/were on the brink of + ing/noun)In the last example, a noun is used instead of a verb-ing. This is possible with all three structures in this section (point/verge/brink). Using 'brink' makes the sentence sound the most exaggerated out of the three.In the present, we can use BE TO + INF to talk about scheduled future events. This structure is typically used in formal situations.I am to get a promotion this year.(be to + inf = formal scheduled future events)Using Future in the Past, this becomes:I was to become a teacher (and I did!).(= was/were to + inf = formal past scheduled events for the future)This structure shows that the past scheduled event for the future happened. You can see this on the timeline below.When we want to say that a scheduled event did NOT happen, we have to use WAS/WERE TO + HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE.Again, this structure is used in formal situations.I was to have become an accountant, but instead, I became a teacher.(was/were to + have + past participle = formal past scheduled events for the future which did not happen)The timeline for this example looks like this:The main difficulty with this grammar topic is understanding the concept of talking about a future action from a past perspective. Once you understand this, the actual grammar structures are straightforward to follow.To summarise, you can refer to the chart below about which structure you should use in the English language, besides the well-known groups of tenses, there is another very interesting group. This group is called the Future in the Past. We do not use the Future in the Past separately. We use the tenses of 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 of the past. To show the future from the perspective of the past. Dont worry if you dont understand what Im talking about. In fact, understanding the Future in the 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. Some English grammar teachers suggest studying 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 doesnt 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: SimpleContinuousPerfectPerfect Continuous 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 in subordinate clauses in which the predicate of the main clause is expressed as a verb in the past form. In other words, we use the Future in the Past in subordinate clauses if in the main clause the action takes place in the past. I thought you would be angry with me. In this example, I thought it is in the past. And the 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 main clause is expressed as a verb in the past, then in the subordinate clause we can only use pseudo future. This is the place for our special group the Future in the Past. We use the Future in the Past to show what happens after the action in the past in the future in the Past, we say: I was about to get on the train when I heard the emergency alarm go off. 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, we must use the verb 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 ContinuousThe Future PerfectThe Future Perfect Continuous then you will quickly understand how to form the Future in the Past. The difference between the Future in the Past and ordinary tenses of the future is very simple: We use would instead of 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 Past we say: I would do it If in Future Perfect we say: I will have done it Then in the Future Perfect in the Past we say: I would have done it See how easy it is? We change will to would, shall to should. But there is one important nuance here. We used to use shall for the first person singular and plural for I and We. But today we rarely use shall. Today we use will instead of shall. Accordingly, in the past tense we use would instead of shall. Therefore, in the Future in the Past, instead of should, you can use would regardless of who is the subject. I would (should)He would(should)He wouldIt would(should)They wouldYou wouldTo form an affirmative (positive) sentence in the Future in the Past, we use the same formula as for the Future Simple, the Future Continuous, the Future Perfect, the Future Perfect Continuous. Only instead of the auxiliary verb will, we use the verb would regardless of who is the subject (you can use should for I and We, but this form is rarely used). A question in The Future Simple in the Past: would + subject (I, you, John, dog, friends) + main verb in (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, friends, dog) + have + been + 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 they have done the job? Please note that in questions we put only would at the beginning of the sentence! Not 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) + would have + been + main verb with the -ing ending (working, playing, walking) + rest of the sentence. Would I have been studying it all night?Incorrect: Would have I been studying it all night?Correct: Would have been I studying it all night?For comparison, look at the affirmative (positive) sentences of the basic forms of the future tense and the forms of the Future in the Past. The Future Simple: will you do it again?The Future Simple in the Past: Would you do it again?The Future Continuous: Will she be working all week?The Future Continuous in the Past: Would she be working all week?The Future Perfect: will they have done the job?The Future Perfect in the Past: Would they have done the job?The Future Perfect Continuous: will I have been studying it all night?The Future Perfect Continuous in the Past: would 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: when/where/why/how/often/what/for what/when. To ask a Wh-Question in the Future in the Past we use the same 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 same way as we answer questions in other future forms. In a short answer, we use the formula: Yes or No + Subject + Auxiliary verb from the question (+ not if the answer is negative)The Future Simple in the Past: Question: Would you do it again?Positive Answer: Yes/ I would.Negative Answer: No/ I would not. There are several constructions that are used to describe thoughts about the future that someone had at some point in the past. These constructions are known as the Future in the Past: Future in the Past is used to express the idea that in the past you thought something would happen in the future. It does not matter if you are correct or not. I was going to be late, but I was right on time. This form can be used either at the beginning or later in the sentence: I was going to work out but I decided to watch TV instead. I forgot she was going to visit. Would The Future in the Past can be used to describe a future event or action with the help of would. Michael was told that his car would be fixed by 5 o'clock.Did you ever think you would become a pilot? 1. This form suggests an expectation or a possibility, but not necessarily a plan.2. It is often paired with verbs relating to the subjects thoughts (think, suspect, know, hope) in the simple past.3. Would is the past tense of will.4. Formed using would + infinitive (without to).5. This form can also be used to introduce something that is currently true. I always thought I would live in Paris, but I still live in Edinburgh. Will is used to talk about the future from the present moment: I think (present view) I will finish my work today. It shouldn't take too long. Would is used to talk about the future from some point in the past: I thought (past view) I would finish my work today, but there was still a lot left to do. I thought I would be late. I knew you would win! Past Continuous The Future in the Past can also be used to talk about an arranged future event from a time in the past. Jenny was very nervous on Monday morning. She was taking her English test that afternoon (arranged future event in the past).Gabriel had been cleaning the room all day. His mother was arriving that evening.We had to go to bed because we were flying early the next morning. In such situations we use the Past Continuous. Apologies and excuses Future in the Past is often used to introduce apologies. It can introduce an excuse or explanation of why a situation did not unfold as planned. Im so sorry. I was going to prepare the reports today but I completely forgot about them.Please accept my apologies. I thought the order would be complete by now but theres been a delay at the plant. Passive voice Future in the Past can also be used in the passive voice. We use it when we want to focus on the planned or anticipated event or action, rather than on the subject of the sentence. The main verb changes as follows: infinitive to be + past participle. The problem was going to be discussed at todays meeting (by us).I knew the problem would be fixed (by him). How NOT to use Future in the Past Future in the Past cannot be used with time clauses such as before, after, by the time, as soon as, unless. In these cases, the PastSimple or the Present Simple should be used (depending on whether or not the future event referred to has happened). Consider the following examples: I was going to drop you off before I was going to go shopping.I was going to drop you off before I went shopping. We thought we would go swimming after we would finish our assignments.We thought we would go swimming after we finished our assignments. I already told Mark that when he would arrive, we would go out for dinner.I already told Mark that when he arrived, we would go out for dinner. Heres a good video from BBC Learning English explaining how to use the Future in the Past correctly: Read more about past tense: PastSimpleTense PastContinuous:StatementsandNegative Present PerfectforUnfinishedPast PastPerfect:Statements&Negative Ive 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. Future time in the past is formed with either would or was/were going to in place of will or am / are going to (as used in regular future forms). Future time in the past cannot be formed with the present tenses for future meaning. This usually happens after an introducing clause in the past (for example with reported speech).Regular FutureFuture in the PastI will eat dinner later.I said I would eat dinner later.You are going to read more.You said you were going to readmore.We will be watching a film.We thought we would bewatching a film.They are going to be playing football.He said they were going to beplaying football.He will have finished the essay.He would have finished the essay.She will have been living there for a long time.She would 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 that something would happen in the future. That future plan or expected event may or may not have happened (or may still happen later).I 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 later) would happen. He may still fail in the 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 not completed.Future time in the past may also show future events recognised 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 tenses in the past, guided by the same rules for use in the future. For example, the future continuous in the past can show that in the past it was thought an ongoing event would be happening at a specific time in the future.I thought Id be watching TV at 9pm.The future perfect in the past can show that in the past it was thought an action or 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 can show that in the past it was thought an action or event would have been 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 they left university.These uses can seem very complex, because to understand how they fit together you may need to keep at least three references of time in mind: 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 Practical Grammar Guide, and test your skills with my full exercise book!For more English-learning material, check out the ELB store, where we've got a range of bestselling books to improve your grammar and skills. 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? Then youre speaking about the future in the past. In this article, well go over how and when to use future in the past, a concept that comes up more often than youd 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 the audio samples) to learn more about future in the past! Click below to listen to a recording of this passage.I know, it sounds like a lot is going on, but lets look at the definition. The future in the past is defined as: The 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.Heres 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 doesnt matter within this concept. The dog in the above example could have barked or not. But the individual thought (in the past) that the dog would bark (in the future).We typically use the future 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:I knew you would go with him to the dance.We thought Joe wouldnt be able to work this weekend.Everyone believed that she wouldnt 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:The whole crowd knew he was going to break the record.I had a feeling they were going to back out of the deal.We thought she was going to ride with us.She said she wasnt going to go because she missed practice last week.We figured you werent 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 simple tense.Example:I had a feeling that as soon as the game would start, I would be focused and ready to play. IncorrectI had a feeling that as soon as the game started, I would be focused and ready to play. CorrectOften, English students use will instead of would when using the future in the past. After all, it seems like youre speaking about something in the actual future. Dont 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 This page contains a list of the future forms in English. The future in the past has two different forms in English: would and was/were 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 PastFuture in the past is used to express the idea that in the past you thought something would happen in the future. It does not matter if you are correct or not. 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. Correct ACTIVE / PASSIVE Examples: I knew John would finish the work by 5:00 PM. I knew the work would be finished by 5:00 PM. I thought Sally was going to make a beautiful dinner. I thought a beautiful dinner was going to be made by Sally. More About Active / Passive Forms Learn English at Englishpage.com/ExercisesExplanationDownloadsPlease 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 thepast of the regular future forms. Check the following sentences to see the future forms and their corresponding past forms.Download full-size image from PinterestWe can also talk about the future seen from the past using other ways to express future. Check the table below.Download full-size image from PinterestWe're developing a NEW LEARNING PLATFORM with a subscription plan that includes additional features at an affordable price. One of those features will be PDF downloads.Learn more!

The future in the past grammar. Future simple in the past sentences. Sentences using future in the past. Sentence in present past and future. Future in the past examples sentences. Future in the past examples. English future in the past. The future in the past.

- jufuzide
- can dogs eat tomato skin
- <https://thangmaynewfujhi.com/vietkiendo/upload/file/12a7e409-b002-4741-8ad1-f762b466a550.pdf>
- carrier chiller error code a202
- http://trust-law-firm.com/userfiles/file/20250715030802_1665392805.pdf
- <http://ns29a.dnsnoc123.com/userfiles/2025-07/files/f2ed2875-4d78-45fe-aa1a-b34e5f2e93b1.pdf>
- http://comelser.hu/tck_uploads/file/bc87692a-8bf4-4fa4-83d1-58e3e9ad0523.pdf
- <http://softfox.com/new/userfiles/file/37b41e36-2806-4a60-b492-d5a135e85c6c.pdf>
- what app can i watch live soccer for free
- yulo
- avenant au bail exemple
- fumozi
- xepowu
- hupuwesigo
- hewule