

Understanding Auxiliary Verbs: Would, Should, and Could

Grammar And Sentence Structure · Answer Key · 21 Questions

1. Which auxiliary verb is technically the past tense of 'will' but can also express present tense?

- A) Should
- B) Could
- C) Would**
- D) Can

2. When 'would' is used to ask a question like 'Would you like some coleslaw?', what is its function?

- A) To express past habitual action
- B) To make a polite request**
- C) To show preference
- D) To express doubt

3. The sentence 'I would have helped you if I had known you were stranded' uses 'would' to show what?

- A) A polite request
- B) A different response if the past had been different**
- C) Habitual past action
- D) A hypothetical situation

4. In formal essays, 'would' is not recommended for toning down strong statements. Which verb does it have a similar meaning to in this context?

- A) Will
- B) Do**
- C) Shall
- D) Can

5. When 'would' is used with 'rather' or 'sooner', what does it indicate?

- A) Obligation
- B) Possibility
- C) Preference between two choices**
- D) Future likelihood

6. The sentence 'She said she would come' implies what about her action?

- A) She had the ability to come
- B) She was planning to come**
- C) She was obligated to come
- D) She doubted she would come

7. Which auxiliary verb is technically the past tense of 'shall'?

- A) Would
- B) Could
- C) Should**
- D) Will

8. When 'should' is used in a question like 'Should I turn in my assignment now?', what does it mean?

- A) It is a polite request
- B) It expresses a desire
- C) It means 'Am I supposed to?'**
- D) It shows a hypothetical situation

9. The sentence 'You should floss and brush your teeth after every meal' uses 'should' to express:

- A) Possibility
- B) Obligation**
- C) Past ability
- D) Doubt

10. In the sentence 'If I should find your coat, I will be sure to call you,' 'should' can be omitted, and the sentence still makes sense. What does 'should' imply here?

- A) A strong obligation
- B) A future event that is likely
- C) A hypothetical future event**
- D) A past possibility

11. When 'should' is used in a sentence like 'With an early start, they should be here by noon,' what is it expressing?

- A) A wish or desire
- B) A definitive future event
- C) What is likely**
- D) A polite request

12. Which auxiliary verb is technically the past tense of 'can'?

- A) Should
- B) Would
- C) Will
- D) Could**

13. The sentence 'In those days, all the people could build houses' uses 'could' to show:

- A) Polite request
- B) Past obligation
- C) Past tense of 'can'**
- D) Possibility

14. When 'could' is used in a question like 'Could you have erased the disk?', what does it imply?

- A) A definite statement of past action
- B) A polite request for information
- C) Inquiry about a possibility**
- D) Expression of doubt

15. The sentence 'You could study harder than you do' uses 'could' to express:

- A) Past ability
- B) A polite request
- C) Possibility or potential**
- D) Obligation

16. Which of these auxiliary verbs can be used to express tentativeness or politeness?

- A) Would and Should
- B) Could
- C) Would and Could**
- D) Should and Could

17. In the sentence 'Would you have changed your mind?', how does it differ from 'Would you had changed your mind?'

- A) The first is a polite request, the second expresses wish.
- B) The first asks about a hypothetical past possibility, the second expresses a wish about the past.**
- C) The first shows habitual past action, the second shows preference.
- D) The first shows intention, the second shows doubt.

18. Which usage of 'would' is similar to 'did'?

- A) To show preference
- B) To show habitual past action**
- C) To express doubt
- D) To show intention

19. The phrase 'would've' is a contraction of:

A) would have

B) would is

C) would be

D) would do

20. When 'should' is used in a polite context like 'I should like to go home now,' what is its meaning?

A) It is a strong obligation.

B) It means 'I want to go home now.'

C) It expresses a past ability.

D) It shows a hypothetical situation.

21. In the sentence 'He knew the sunset could be spectacular,' 'could' indicates:

A) Past obligation

B) A polite request

C) Past ability

D) A recurring possibility in the past