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Consulting & Solutions

Future in the past

Activity 1: Instructions: Complete the text using appropriate **future-in-the-past** forms (*would / was going to / was due to / was expected to / would have*).

At the beginning of the year, senior management believed the global market __________________ stabilise by mid-year. The finance director was convinced that costs __________________ fall once supply chains normalised. At the same time, employees were told that no major restructuring __________________ take place.

However, few people anticipated that inflation __________________ remain so persistent or that several key clients __________________ withdraw their contracts altogether. In retrospect, many assumptions that were considered realistic at the time proved overly optimistic.

Activity 2: (Expectation vs Reality)

Instructions: Rewrite each sentence so it contrasts **expectations at the time** with **what actually happened**.

1. The board expected the merger to strengthen the company's position.

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2. She planned to remain with the company after the acquisition.

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3. Analysts believed the downturn would be short-lived.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS