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Will or would?

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a Everything will be much quicker when we will get the new computer system.
b Everything will be much quicker when we get the new computer system.
- 2 a I promised Mum I'd go straight home after the concert.
b I promised Mum I'll go straight home after the concert.

We use *will* to talk about future possibilities or predictions which we believe will happen, especially based on an existing situation or evidence:

If you don't water the plants, they'll die. (it's a certain fact)

My journey to work will be much easier when the new tram line opens. (the line is already being built, so the consequences are quite certain)

☆ We only use *will* to talk about the possibility or prediction, not in the *if / when* clause. (not ~~when the new tram line will open~~)

We use *would* to describe hypothetical possibilities which are uncertain, unlikely or impossible, often based on situations which do not yet exist or can never exist:

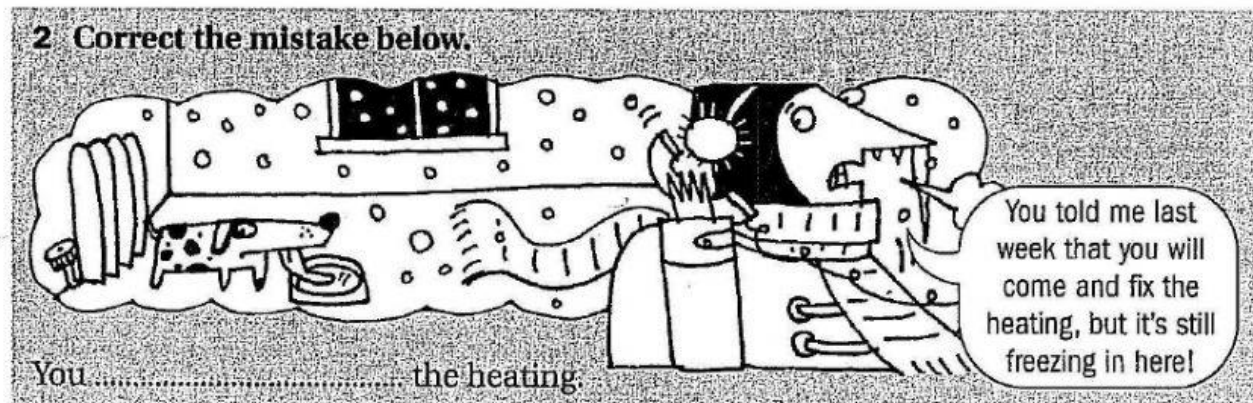
I'd buy more organic products if they weren't so expensive. (but they are expensive)

In my opinion, it would be disastrous to let this project go ahead. (no decision has been made yet, so the consequences are only a possibility)

We also use *would* to talk about a time in the future from a point in the past:

They planned that they would meet at midnight.

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Underline the correct form to complete each sentence.

- 1 It *will be / would be* nice to go away for longer, but I can't get more time off work.
- 2 She told me she *will call / would call* if there was a problem.
- 3 If this rain *continues / will continue* much longer, the river will flood.
- 4 Based on current estimates, the number of mobile phone users *will double / would double* in the next five years.
- 5 Dave *will be / would be* furious if he knew what you'd done.
- 6 If everything *goes / will go* to plan, we'll have everything finished by Friday.
- 7 He promised he *will be / would be* back in time for my birthday.
- 8 More people would use public transport if the services *were / would be* more reliable.