

Le conditionnel (would, could, should)

Savoir conseiller, demander poliment, suggérer et exprimer un souhait en anglais avec would, could et should.

1 La règle de construction

- **Modal + base verbale** : jamais *to*, jamais -s, jamais -ing, même forme à toutes les personnes.
- Négation : modal + **not** → *wouldn't, couldn't, shouldn't*.
- Question : **modal en tête** → *Would you...? Should I...?* Jamais *do / does*.
- Réponse courte : *Yes, I would. / No, she shouldn't.*
- Contraction de *would* : **'d** (*I'd, she'd, they'd*).

2 Should = le conseil

- *You **should** rest.* — Tu devrais te reposer.
- *You **shouldn't** lie.* — Tu ne devrais pas mentir.
- ***Should** I call him? / What **should** I do?* — demander un conseil.
- Plus doux que **must** (obligation) ; **ought to** = synonyme formel, le seul suivi de *to*.
- Variante : *If I were you, I would...*

3 Would = politesse et souhait

- **would like** + nom / + *to* + BV : *I'd like a ticket. I'd like to book.*
- **would love** : *I'd love a coffee.*
- **would rather** + BV (+ *than*) : *I'd rather walk than drive.*
- **Would you mind** + V-ing : *Would you mind waiting?*
Réponse positive : *No, not at all.*
- ***Would** you help me?* — demande qui insiste sur la bonne volonté.
- Hypothèse : *If I had time, I would travel.*

4 Could = possibilité et suggestion

- Possibilité : *It **could** rain.* (≈ *might*)
- Suggestion : *We **could** take the bus.*
- Demande polie : ***Could** you repeat, please? / **Could** I borrow...?*
- Autre sens : capacité passée — *She **could** swim at five.* (« pouvait »).
- Futur de *can* : **will be able to**.

5 Échelle de politesse

Give me... (ordre) < *I want...* (direct) < *Can you...?* (neutre) < *Could you...? / I'd like...* (poli) < *Would you mind + V-ing?* (très poli).

6 Pièges

- ~~*She should to go*~~ → *She should go.*
- ~~*Do you would like...?*~~ → *Would you like...?*
- ~~*They don't should*~~ → *They shouldn't.*
- ~~*I'd rather to stay*~~ → *I'd rather stay.*
- ~~*Would you mind to wait*~~ → *Would you mind waiting?*
- ~~*He would can*~~ → *He would be able to.*

L'ESSENTIEL

- Conditionnel anglais = *would / could / should* + base verbale, sans *to*, sans -s, sans *do*.
- should* = conseil (« devrais »), *shouldn't* = « ne devrais pas ».
- would* = politesse et souhait : *I'd like, I'd rather, Would you mind + V-ing.*

- could* = possibilité, suggestion, demande polie ; attention, *could* = aussi « pouvait ».
- Négation : modal + *not* (*wouldn't, couldn't, shouldn't*) ; question : modal en tête.