



Grammar Talks 4-04 Would for Past Tense

## Valentine's Day Memories

Mel and Doron discuss a romantic holiday.

**Mel:** So, Doron, what did you do last Valentine's Day?

**Doron:** Last Valentine's day I got disappointed I think, cause I teach at university, and I'd \_\_\_\_\_ Japanese students always give their teachers loads and loads of chocolate, and even though it was my fifth year, and every other year I only got like two or three, I was still really excited cause I'm at university now and I got two chocolate bars.

**Mel:** Oh, really?

**Doron:** How, about you? Are you looking \_\_\_\_\_ it this year?

**Mel:** I'm planning on going to Korea with my co-workers to escape the Valentine's Day.

**Doron:** To escape?

**Mel:** Atmosphere, yes.

**Doron:** You're not a fan then?

**Mel:** I like Valentine's Day, but I don't \_\_\_\_\_ celebrating it this year. Is Valentine's Day big in England?

**Doron:** I haven't lived in England for awhile now, about ten years. When I was a kid it was big in school, like in junior school, and we \_\_\_\_\_ have a little Valentine's post box in your class where you \_\_\_\_\_ little messages to your classmates and then you put it in the box \_\_\_\_\_ delivered.

**Mel:** Oh, \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Doron:** Yeah, in a little Valentine's post box.

**Mel:** Oh, cool.

**Doron:** The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ them.

**Mel:** Did you only get notes or did you get candy as well?

**Doron:** No, it was just notes. In England we don't really give candy and chocolate and presents to people. We just give letters, unless \_\_\_\_\_ boyfriend or a girlfriend or something. But when you are seven, you don't really bother.

**Mel:** Well, the thing I liked about Valentine's Day as a kid was that \_\_\_\_\_ Valentine's Day cards from everyone, but I was always curious to see what the boy I liked \_\_\_\_\_ me.

**Doron:** Did you know who wrote what to you?

**Mel:** Yeah, they \_\_\_\_\_ their name on the card.



## Quiz

1) Doron was disappointed he did not \_\_\_\_\_ in Japan.

- a) have a Valentine
- b) get to see his girlfriend
- c) get any sweets

2) Melissa is going to Korea to \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a) surprise her Valentine
- b) avoid the holiday
- c) have a romantic weekend

3) Doron used to \_\_\_\_\_ to classmates in England.

- a) write notes
- b) give chocolates
- c) exchange presents

4) In \_\_\_\_\_ you sign your name on the card.

- a) England
- b) America
- c) both countries

5) Melissa remembers getting gifts from \_\_\_\_\_ .

- a) a close friend
- b) a high school sweetheart
- c) a family member

## Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- |            |             |             |               |
|------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| would sign | you'd get   | in a box    | used to       |
| heard that | could write | forward to  | would deliver |
| wrote to   | plan on     | it's like a | and it'd get  |

## Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- 1) What would you give each other in school?
- 2) What games would you play?
- 3) What songs would you sing?
- 4) When would you go home?
- 5) Where would you eat lunch?

- ( 2 ) We would play foursquare.
- ( 5 ) We ate in a cafeteria.
- ( 4 ) We would stop the lessons at three.
- ( 3 ) we would not traditional songs.
- ( 1 ) We would give each other chocolates.

**What about you?** Share your answers to the questions.

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**Doron:** What? They sign names?

**Mel:** Yeah, it'd be like. Happy Valentine's Day Adam.

**Doron:** Oh, in England I don't think you don't put your name. Even if you know who it's from. You know it's from your girlfriend, or your best friend, or your grandma, or something, I think you just put a big question mark.

**Mel:** Really?

**Doron:** It's half the fun. You have to figure it out.

**Mel:** But my favorite Valentine's Day gift is always from my mom.

**Doron:** She gives you a gift every year.

**Mel:** She'll send me gifts in the mail, and when I was in elementary school, she would hide chocolates and stuff in my desk. It was awesome.



**Doron:** That's brilliant.

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Doron:** I don't remember getting any really really cool Valentine's presents. I remember giving a couple. I was dating a girl who lived in Norway when I was at university in England and so for Valentine's Day is the same ... I think her birthday was February the 11th or something.

**Mel:** Oh, yeah.

**Doron:** So, I just flew over. I e-mailed like her best friend who I knew quite well as well and he picked me up at the airport I and flew over to Norway.

**Mel:** Yeah.

**Doron:** And in Norway, it's a very safe country, so they don't really lock their doors a bit like Japan, and he just drove me down to the house and I walked in at like nine in the morning, and she just came down stairs and she nearly died. She thought I was a ghost.

**Mel:** Yeah. That would be scary but fun.

**Doron:** Scary but fun. That's what she said when she could talk.

**Mel:** Yeah, so it was a double birthday, Valentine's Day gift.

**Doron:** Exactly.

## Grammar

### Would - Past Tense

**Point 1:** Use the modal **would** to talk about activities you often did in the past, but no longer do.

(Q) As a kid on the farm, what **did** you do?

(A) I did a lot. I **would** ride horses.

(N) I **wouldn't** stay inside.

(Q) Where **would** you play?

(A) I **would** play in the garden.

(N) I **wouldn't** see anyone.

**Point 2:** Use **would** to for things you did often. Use the simple past for actions you just did once.

(Q) Who **did** you talk to as a kid?

(A) I talked with my friends.

(A) We **would** talk for hours.

(N) I **wouldn't** say much.

**Point 3:** We use 'd as a contraction for would in spoken English.

(Q) When **would** you get up?

(A) I'd wake up very early.

(N) I'd never sleep in.

**Note:** Do not use the contraction in short answers.

(Q) **Would** you go to town?

(A) Yes, I **would** sometimes.

(N) No, **wouldn't** usually.

**Point 4:** We use **used to** to introduce an action we no longer do, and then switch to would for related actions.

I **used to** play soccer a lot. I **would** play from morning till night.

I **used to** get in trouble a lot. I **would** make my teacher so made.

I **used to** have a motorcycle. I **would** ride it for hours.



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**Mel:** Oh, **in a box**?

**Doron:** Yeah, in a little Valentine's post box.

**Mel:** Oh, cool.

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**Doron:** Did you know who wrote what to you?

**Mel:** Yeah, they **would sign** their name on the card.



## Quiz

- Doron was disappointed he did not \_\_\_\_ in Japan. ✓  
 a) have a Valentine  
 b) get to see his girlfriend  
 c) **get any sweets**
- Melissa is going to Korea to \_\_\_\_\_. ✓  
 a) surprise her Valentine  
 b) **avoid the holiday**  
 c) have a romantic weekend
- Doron used to \_\_\_\_ to classmates in England. ✓  
 a) **write notes**  
 b) give chocolates  
 c) exchange presents
- In \_\_\_\_\_ you sign your name on the card. ✓  
 a) England  
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- Melissa remembers getting gifts from \_\_\_\_\_. ✓  
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