

FUTURE IN THE PAST

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Describe plans and expectations from a past viewpoint, then explain the outcome.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: Weren't you going away this weekend?

B: I **was going to visit** my sister, but her plans changed.

A: That's a shame. I thought you **would be** away until Monday.

2. PLANS THAT CHANGED

1. What **were you going to do** last weekend? What actually happened?
2. What job did you once think you **would do**? Why did your expectations change?
3. What purchase **were you going to make** but decided against? Explain.
4. Before a course, what did you expect you **would learn**? Were you right?
5. What **were you going to say** in a conversation but never got the chance to?
6. When did someone promise they **would help** you? What happened afterwards?

Keep talking: What changed? / Did you go ahead with it? / How did the outcome compare?

3. EXPECTATION VERSUS OUTCOME

Set the past viewpoint clearly. Explain what was still in the future at that moment.

7. Before a trip, what did you think the weather **would be** like? Was it?
8. You cancelled an event. What **were you going to organise**, and why did it change?
9. A friend said they **would arrive** early. Explain how the evening turned out.
10. What skill **were you going to learn** last year? Did you start or change your plan?

4. REVIEW A PLAN

Invent an event that didn't go as expected. Describe the original plan and predictions.

Your partner asks what changed. Explain what happened and what you learned.

Example: We **were going to eat** outside. We thought the rain **would stop**.

Then discuss which parts of the original plan still worked.

Answer help: I was going to ... but ... / I thought ... would ... / They said ... would ...

Remember: These forms show a future viewed from the past; the plan may or may not happen.