



Presentation

was/were going to and was/were about to (+ infinitive)

Use *was/were going to* and *was/were about to* (+ infinitive) to say that we intended to do something but didn't.

I was going to get off but I stayed on.

He was about to get off the ride but he stayed on.

We also use *was/were going to* and *was/were about to* after verbs like *say*, *know*, *promise* and *think*.

I thought I was going to die!

He said he was going to close his eyes.

would (+ infinitive without to) and would have (+ past participle)

We use *would* to talk about the future in the past when we report thoughts, ideas, expectations, etc. with verbs like *say*, *know*, *promise* and *think*. We use this to describe both events that happened and those that didn't.

He promised he would take us to the theme park, but he never did.

I knew they would be scared. (and they were)

We use *would have* + past participle to talk about something that didn't happen in the past.

I would have invited you, but I thought you were away.

was/were supposed to (+ infinitive)

We use *was/were supposed to* to describe something that we expected to happen but didn't.

Where have you been? You were supposed to go to the theme park with us.!

Exercises

1 Match the two halves of the sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 I was going to take a day off from work | A want to come to the restaurant with us. |
| 2 Shaun was about to | B but I had too much to do at the office. |
| 3 The builders promised | C they were going to finish by the end of the week. |
| 4 I thought you would | D to catch the plane an hour ago! |
| 5 She would have | E go home when his boss asked him to stay behind. |
| 6 You were supposed | F invited you as well, but she didn't know your email. |

2 Complete the sentences with one word.

- They going to come too but their car broke down.
- He was to relax with a coffee when the phone rang.
- Sheila promised that she help me with my homework. Where is she?
- We would called to say we'd be late, but no one had their phone!
- Where have you been? This delivery was to be here yesterday!

3 Rewrite the first sentence using the word in bold.

- I was going to call you but you called me.
about I, but you called me.
- She knew that you are always late and you were.
would She knew you, and you were.
- Why weren't you here at nine?
supposed here at nine!
- I thought about asking you to marry me years ago but I never thought you'd say 'yes'!
would have I you to marry me years ago but I never thought you'd say 'yes'!
- I'd planned to go away for the weekend, but I didn't go.
going I, but I didn't go.

4 Complete these sentences about last week so they are true for you.

- Last week I was going to but I didn't have time.
- I promised a friend I would and I did.
- I would have but