



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 59 – Prefer and Would rather

tienganh



Prefer and Would rather

PREFER TO ... AND PREFER -ING

A

❖ When you say what you prefer in general, you can use **prefer to ...** or **prefer -ing**:

I don't like cities. I **prefer to live** in the country. or I **prefer living** in the country.

❖ You can say:

- prefer something to something else
- prefer doing something to doing something else / rather than (doing) something else
- prefer to do something rather than (do) something else

EXAMPLES:

- EX1: I **prefer** this coat **to** the other one.
- EX2: I **prefer** driving **to** travelling by train. Or
I **prefer** driving **rather than** travelling by train.
- EX3: I **prefer** to drive **rather than** travel by train.
- EX4: Sarah **prefers** to live in the country **rather than** in a city.

Prefer and Would rather

WOULD PREFER

B

- ❖ We use **would prefer** to say what somebody wants in a specific situation (not in general):
 - EX5: 'Would you prefer tea or coffee?' 'Coffee, please.'
- ❖ We say '**would prefer to do something**' (not usually would prefer doing):
 - EX6: 'Shall we go by train?' 'I'd prefer to drive.' (= I would prefer ...)
 - EX7: I'd prefer to stay at home tonight rather than go to the cinema.

Prefer and Would rather

WOULD RATHER (I'D RATHER ...)

C

I'd rather = I would rather. I'd rather do something = I'd prefer to do it.

❖ We say **I'd rather do** (not to do). Compare:

- EX8: 'Shall we go by train?' 'I'd rather **drive.**' (not to drive.) or 'I'd prefer to **drive.**'
- EX9: Which **would you rather do,** } go to the cinema or go shopping?
Which **would you prefer to do,** }

❖ The negative is '**I'd rather not ...**' :

- EX10: I'm tired. I'd **rather not go** out this evening, if you don't mind.
- EX11: 'Do you want to go out this evening?' 'I'd **rather not.**'

❖ We say '**I'd rather do one thing than do another**' :

- EX12: I'd **rather stay** at home tonight than go to the cinema.

Prefer and Would rather

I'D RATHER SOMEBODY DID SOMETHING

D

- ❖ We say **'I'd rather you did something'** (not I'd rather you do):
 - EX13: 'Who's going to drive, you or me?' **'I'd rather you drove.'** (= I would prefer this)
 - EX14: 'Jack says he'll repair your bike tomorrow, OK?' **'I'd rather he did it today.'**
 - EX15: Are you going to tell Anna what happened, or **would you rather I told** her?
- ❖ We use the past (drove, did etc.) here, but the meaning is present not past. Compare:
 - EX16: **I'd rather make** dinner now.
 - EX17: **I'd rather you made** dinner now. (not I'd rather you make)
- ❖ **I'd rather you didn't (do something) = I'd prefer you not to do it:**
 - EX18: **I'd rather you didn't tell** anyone what I said.
 - EX19: 'Shall I tell Anna what happened?' **'I'd rather you didn't.'**
 - EX20: 'Are you going to tell Anna what happened?' **'No. I'd rather she didn't know.'**

Prefer and Would rather



BÀI TẬP NHANH

Select the best answer.

Are you going to make dinner or _____ ?

- A. would you rather me did it
- B. would you rather me to do it
- C. would you prefer me do it
- D. would you rather I made it

Prefer and Would rather



TÓM TẮT

1. Khi diễn tả ý thích việc gì hơn, chúng ta dùng cấu trúc “**prefer doing something,**” hoặc “**prefer to do something**” - *I prefer this coat to the other one.*
2. Để diễn tả ý thích việc gì hơn một việc khác, chúng ta dùng cấu trúc “**prefer something to some other thing**” hoặc “**prefer something rather than some other thing**” Lưu ý tính song song của cấu trúc,
 - nếu sau “**prefer**” là một danh từ, thì sau “**to**” cũng là một danh từ - *I prefer this coat to the other one.*
 - nếu sau “**prefer**” là “**V -ing,**” thì sau “**to**” cũng là “**V -ing**” - *I prefer driving to travelling by train. Or I prefer driving rather than travelling by train.*
 - Tuy nhiên, sau “**prefer**” và “**to infinitive,**” chúng ta dùng “**infinitive without to**” sau “**rather than**” - *I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.*
3. Chúng ta dùng “**would prefer something**” trong một trường hợp cụ thể, và theo sau đó phải là “**to infinitive**” - *‘Shall we go by train?’ ‘I’d prefer to drive.’*
4. Để diễn tả ý thích hơn, chúng ta cũng có thể dùng “**would rather + (not) infinitive + than + infinitive**” - *I’d rather stay at home tonight than go to the cinema.*
5. Để diễn tả ý thích ai đó làm gì hơn, chúng ta dùng cấu trúc “**would rather somebody did something,**” lưu ý động từ sau “**would rather**” ở quá khứ nhưng có nghĩa hiện tại - *I’d rather you made dinner now.*