C

D

## Prefer and would rather

A Prefer to do and prefer doing

You can use 'prefer to (do)' or 'prefer -ing' to say what you prefer in general:

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

Study the differences in structure after prefer. We say:

	I prefer	something	to	something else.
THE P	I prefer	doing something	to	doing something else.
but	I prefer	to do something	rather than	(do) something else.

- I prefer this coat to the coat you were wearing yesterday.
- I prefer driving to travelling by train.

but • I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.

• Ann prefers to live in the country rather than (live) in a city.

B Would prefer (I'd prefer...)

We use 'would prefer' to say what somebody wants in a particular situation (not in general):

• 'Would you prefer tea or coffee?' 'Coffee, please.'

We say 'would prefer to do' (not 'doing'):

- 'Shall we go by train?' 'Well, I'd prefer to go by car.' (not 'I'd prefer going')
- I'd prefer to stay at home tonight rather than go to the cinema.

Would rather (I'd rather...)

Would rather (do) = would prefer (to do). After would rather we use the infinitive *without* to. Compare:

- 'Shall we go by train?' { 'I'd prefer to go by car.' (not 'to go')
- 'Would you rather have tea or coffee?' 'Coffee, please.'

The negative is 'I'd rather not (do something)':

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

Study the structure after would rather:

I'd rather do something than (do) something else.

• I'd rather stay at home tonight than go to the cinema.

I'd rather you did something

When you want somebody to do something, you can say 'I'd rather you did something':

• 'Shall I stay here?' 'I'd rather you came with us.'

• 'Shall I tell them the news?' 'No. I'd rather they didn't know.'

• Shall I tell them or would you rather they didn't know?

In this structure we use the *past* (came, did etc.), but the meaning is present or future, *not* past. Compare:

• I'd rather cook the dinner now.

but • I'd rather you cooked the dinner now. (not 'I'd rather you cook')

The negative is 'I'd rather you didn't...':

- I'd rather you didn't tell anyone what I said.
- 'Do you mind if I smoke?' 'I'd rather you didn't.'

## **EXERCISES**

2	(drive / travel by train) I prefer driving to travelling by train.
	(tennis / football) I prefer
3	(phone people / write letters) I
4	(go to the cinema / watch films on TV)
	N
	Now rewrite sentences 3 and 4 using the structure 'I prefer (to do something)'.
	(1) I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.
	(3) I prefer to
7	(4)
17	Trite sentences using I'd prefer or I'd rather + one of the following:
	at at home get a taxi go alone go for a swim listen to some music
	and think about it for a while wait a few minutes wait till later
51	and think about it for a wine wait a few limitutes wait thin fater
	Cl. 11 11 1 2) (/ C ) I'd must a to at a toui
	Shall we walk home? (prefer) I'd prefer to get a taxi.
	Do you want to eat now? (rather)!'d rather wait till later.
	Shall we watch TV? (prefer)
	What about a game of tennis? (rather)
	Do you want to go to a restaurant? (prefer)
	I think we should decide now? (rather)
	Would you like to sit down? (rather)
	Do you want me to come with you? (prefer)
	Now write sentences using than and rather than.
1	(get a taxi / walk home) I'd prefer to get a taxi rather than walk home.
	1 (go for a swim / play tennis) I'd rather
1	2 (wait a few minutes / leave now)
	I'd rather
1	3 (eat at home / go to a restaurant) I'd prefer
1	1 d preier
	1 (think about it for a while ( decide now)
	4 (think about it for a while / decide now)
	4 (think about it for a while / decide now) I'd rather
1	I'd rather
1	I'd ratheromplete the sentences using would you rather I
1	I'd rather
1 1 2	I'd rather  complete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner or would you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather
1 C 1 2 3	I'd rather
1 C 1 2 3	I'd rather
1 2 3 4	I'd rather  omplete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner or would you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather  Are you going to do the shopping or  Are you going to answer the phone or
1 2 3 4	I'd rather  omplete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner or would you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather  Are you going to do the shopping or  Are you going to answer the phone or  Se your own ideas to complete these sentences.
1 2 3 4 L	I'd rather  omplete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner or would you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather  Are you going to do the shopping or  Are you going to answer the phone or  se your own ideas to complete these sentences.  'Shall I tell Ann the news?' 'No, I'd rather she didn't know.'
1 2 3 4 L 1 2	I'd rather  omplete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner orwould you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather  Are you going to do the shopping or
1 2 3 4 L 1 2 3	I'd rather  complete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner or would you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather  Are you going to do the shopping or  Are you going to answer the phone or  See your own ideas to complete these sentences.  'Shall I tell Ann the news?' 'No, I'd rather she didn't know.'  Do you want me to go now or would you rather I here?  Do you want to go out this evening or would you rather at home?
1 2 3 4 L 1 2 3 4	I'd rather  omplete the sentences using would you rather I  Are you going to cook the dinner orwould you rather I cooked it?  Are you going to tell Ann what happened or would you rather  Are you going to do the shopping or