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Would Rather vs. Prefer: Expressing Preferences

Medium | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | B1 | Intermediate | B2 | Upper Intermediate | Clause | Comparative and superlative | Conjunction | Gerund | Infinitive | Modal verb | Negation | Past tense | Preposition | Subjunctive mood | Verb | Verb mood | Verb tense | Word order

1. Choose the correct words to complete these conversations. Each speaker is saying what they'd prefer someone else to do — can you pick the right verb form?

A: Can I open the window? B: I'd rather you _____ — it's freezing outside!

A: Should Tom drive tonight? B: I'd rather he _____ a taxi. He looks tired.

A: I want to tell Sara the surprise. B: I'd rather you _____ it a secret for now!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) didn't
B) don't
C) won't

Blank 2

A) took
B) takes
C) take

Blank 3

A) kept
B) keep
C) keeping

2. Two friends are planning a trip. Complete their conversation by selecting the correct option for each blank.

Alex: Do you prefer _____ by train or by bus?
Sam: I'd rather _____ the train — it's more comfortable.
Alex: OK! And would you rather we _____ in the morning or the afternoon?

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) traveling
B) travel
C) to traveling

Blank 2

A) take
B) taking
C) to take

Blank 3

A) left
B) leave
C) will leave

3. You're sharing a taxi, and the driver is speeding. Complete what you'd say to express your wish about the driver's behavior.

I'd rather you ___ more slowly, please.

Select one.

- **A)** drive
- **B)** drove
- **C)** to drive
- **D)** driving

4. It's Friday afternoon, and your classmates are making weekend plans. Help them finish these sentences by choosing the correct option for each blank.

Maria enjoys _____ books on lazy weekends.
Tom would prefer _____ to the cinema tonight rather _____ stay home.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** reading
- **B)** read
- **C)** to read

Blank 2

- **A)** to go
- **B)** going
- **C)** go

Blank 3

- **A)** than
- **B)** to
- **C)** that

5. It's Saturday morning and you're making plans with your roommate. Select ALL the options that could correctly complete this sentence:

"On weekends, I _____ stay home and read a good book."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** would rather
- **B)** would prefer
- **C)** prefer to
- **D)** rather would
- **E)** would rather to

6. You're sharing a flat with a messy roommate. Complete your polite requests by selecting the correct option for each blank.

I'd rather you _____ leave your dishes in the sink.
Would you rather I _____ dinner tonight?

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** didn't
- **B)** don't
- **C)** won't

Blank 2

- **A)** cooked
- **B)** cook
- **C)** will cook

7. A travel blogger is writing about her habits. Help her complete this diary entry by choosing the correct option.

I prefer ___ by train to ___ by plane.

Select one.

- **A)** to travel ... flying
- **B)** travel ... fly
- **C)** travelling ... flying
- **D)** travelled ... flew

8. You're at a noisy café with a friend who keeps playing loud videos on her phone. Select ALL the correct ways to politely ask her to stop.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I'd rather you didn't play videos here.
- **B)** I'd rather you don't play videos here.
- **C)** I'd rather you wouldn't play videos here.
- **D)** I'd prefer it if you didn't play videos here.
- **E)** I'd rather you not playing videos here.

9. Help Marco describe his weekend plans by choosing the correct word for each gap.

On Saturdays, I prefer _____ to running. But this Saturday, I'd prefer _____ to the cinema instead. My parents prefer _____ at home to eating out.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** swimming
- **B)** swim
- **C)** to swimming

Blank 2

- **A)** to go
- **B)** going
- **C)** go

Blank 3

- **A)** cooking
- **B)** cook
- **C)** to cook

10. Your friend is planning dinner and asks what you'd like. Select ALL the sentences that correctly express a preference using "would rather" or "prefer."

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I'd rather have pasta than rice.
- **B)** I'd rather to have pasta than rice.
- **C)** I prefer pasta to rice.
- **D)** I would rather having pasta than rice.
- **E)** I'd rather not eat anything spicy tonight.

11. Marco hates horror movies. Help him politely decline his friend's invitation. Choose the grammatically correct sentence.

Select one.

- **A)** I wouldn't rather watch a horror movie.
- **B)** I'd rather don't watch a horror movie.
- **C)** I'd rather not watch a horror movie.
- **D)** I'd not rather watch a horror movie.

12. A travel blogger is writing about how she likes to get around. Select ALL the grammatically correct sentences about her preferences.

Select all that apply.

A) She prefers walking to driving.
B) She prefers walking than driving.
C) She'd rather walk than drive.
D) She'd rather walk to drive.
E) She prefers to walk rather than drive.

13. Your friend suggests going to a noisy club tonight, but you're not feeling it. Choose the correct way to express your preference.

I'd rather ___ at home tonight.

Select one.

A) staying
B) stay
C) to stay
D) stayed