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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