

I'd rather ...



Anna likes to sit on the floor. She doesn't want to sit on a chair. So she says:

I'd rather sit on the floor. (= I would prefer to sit on the floor.)

I'd rather ... = I would rather ...

I would rather do something = I would prefer to do something:

Affirmative

I'd rather (I would rather)	do stay have be
--	--------------------------

Negative

I'd rather not (I would rather not)	do stay have be
--	--------------------------

Question

would you rather	do ...? stay ...? have ...? be ...?
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- ☐ I don't really want to go out. **I'd rather stay** home. (= I'd prefer to stay home)
- ☐ "Should we go now?" "No, not yet. **I'd rather wait** until later."
- ☐ I'd like to go now, but Tom **would rather wait** until later.
- ☐ I don't like to be late. **I'd rather be** early.
- ☐ I'm feeling tired. **I'd rather not go out** tonight. (= I'd prefer not to go out)
- ☐ Sue is feeling tired. She'd **rather not go out** tonight.
- ☐ We're not hungry. We'd **rather not eat** yet.
- ☐ "Would you like to go out tonight?" "**I'd rather not.**" (= I'd rather not go out)
- ☐ "**Would you rather have** milk or juice?" "Juice, please."
- ☐ Which **would you rather do** – go to the movie theater or watch a movie at home?

B

We say "**I'd rather do** something" (*not* to do something):

- ☐ **I'd rather sit** on the floor. (*not* I'd rather to sit)
- ☐ Sue **would rather not go** out. (*not* to go)

But we say "**I'd prefer to do** something":

- ☐ **I'd prefer to sit** on the floor.
- ☐ Sue **would prefer not to go** out.

C

You can say "**I'd rather ... than ...**":

- ☐ **I'd rather go out than** stay home.
- ☐ **I'd rather have a dog than** a cat.
- ☐ We'd **rather go to the movie theater than** watch a movie at home.
- ☐ **I'd rather be at home right now than** here.

Exercises

Unit
33

33.1 Look at the pictures and complete B's sentences. Use **I'd rather**

A

B

1

Would you like to sit here?



No, thanks. **I'd rather sit on the floor.**

2

Don't you want to watch TV?



No, I
my book.

3

Would you like some tea?



Well,
coffee if you have some.

4

Should we go out now?



.....
until it stops raining.

33.2 Complete these questions. Use **would you rather**

- 1 Do you want to go out, or **would you rather stay** home?
- 2 Should we have dinner now, or later?
- 3 Would you like a glass of juice, or water?
- 4 Do you want to go to the movies, or TV?
- 5 Should we call your brother tonight, or tomorrow morning?

33.3 Complete the sentences with a verb. Sometimes you need **to**.

- 1 I'd rather **stay** home tonight. I'd prefer not **to go** out.
- 2 Should we walk home, or would you rather a taxi?
- 3 Do you want me to come with you, or would you prefer alone?
- 4 Lauren doesn't want to go to college. She'd rather a job.
- 5 "Can I help you with your suitcase?" "No, thank you. I'd rather it myself."
- 6 I'd rather not him. I'd prefer him an email.

33.4 Answer these questions about yourself. Use **I'd rather ... than ...**

- 1 Which would you prefer to be – a bus driver or an airplane pilot?
I'd rather be a bus driver than an airplane pilot.
- 2 Which would you prefer to be – a journalist or a schoolteacher?
.....
- 3 Where would you prefer to live – in a big city or a small town?
.....
- 4 Which would you prefer to have – a small house or a big one?
.....
- 5 Which would you prefer to study – electronics or philosophy?
.....
- 6 Which would you prefer to watch – a soccer game or a movie?
.....