## prefer and would rather

Α	prefer to and prefer -ing		
	When you say what you prefer in general, you can use <b>prefer to</b> or <b>prefer -ing</b> :  I don't like cities. I <b>prefer to live</b> in the country. or I <b>prefer living</b> in the country.		
	You can say:		
	<b>prefer</b> something	<b>to</b> something else	
	prefer doing something	to doing something else rather than (doing) something else	
	<b>prefer to do</b> something	rather than (do) something else	
	<ul> <li>I prefer this coat to the other one.</li> <li>I prefer driving to travelling by train. or</li> <li>I prefer driving rather than travelling by train.</li> <li>I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.</li> <li>Sarah prefers to live in the country rather than in a city.</li> </ul>		
В	would prefer (I'd prefer)		
	We use <b>would prefer</b> to say what somebody wants in a specific situation (not in general):  'Would you <b>prefer</b> tea or coffee?' 'Coffee, please.'		
	We say 'would prefer <b>to do</b> something' ( <i>not usually</i> would prefer doing):  'Shall we go by train?' 'I'd prefer to drive.' (= I would prefer)  I'd prefer to stay at home tonight rather than go to the cinema.		
С	would rather (I'd rather)		
	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:  'Shall we go by train?' { 'I'd rather drive.' (not to drive) 'I'd prefer to drive.'  Which would you rather do, Which would you prefer to do, } go to the cinema or go shopping?		
	The negative is 'I'd rather not':  \[ \text{I'm tired. I'd rather not go} \text{ out this evening, if you don't mind.} \] \[ \text{'Do you want to go out this evening?'} \text{'I'd rather not.'} \]		
	We say 'l'd rather do one thing than do another':  l'd rather stay at home tonight than go to the cinema.		
D	I'd rather somebody did something		
	We say 'I'd rather you did something' (not I'd rather you do):  'Who's going to drive, you or me?' 'I'd rather you drove.' (= I would prefer this)  'Jack says he'll repair your bike tomorrow, OK?' 'I'd rather he did it today.'  Are you going to tell Anna what happened, or would you rather I told her?		
	<ul><li>I'd rather make dinn</li></ul>	etc.) here, but the meaning is present <i>not</i> ner now. • dinner now. ( <i>not</i> I'd rather you make)	past. Compare:
	<ul><li>I'd rather you didr</li><li>'Shall I tell Anna what</li></ul>	nething) = I'd prefer you not to do it:  n't tell anyone what I said.  at happened?' 'I'd rather you didn't.'  Anna what happened?' 'No. I'd rathe	e <b>r</b> she <b>didn't</b> know.'

## **Exercises**

59.1 W	hich do you prefer? Write sentences ւ	ising 'I prefer (something) to (something else)'.			
1	(driving / travelling by train)				
	I prefer driving to travelling by train.				
2	(basketball / football)				
2	I prefer(going to the cinema / watching movies at home)				
3	(going to the cinema / watching movies at nome)  Ito				
4	(being very busy / having nothing to do)				
	I				
N	ow rewrite sentences 3 and 4 using ra	ther than:			
5	(1) I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.				
	or I prefer driving rather than travelling by train.				
	(3) I prefer				
1	(4)				
59.2 Co	omplete the sentences. Sometimes yo	ou need one word, sometimes more.			
	A	<b>∏B</b>			
1	Shall we walk home?	I'd rather get a taxi.			
2	Do you want to eat now?	I'd prefer to wait till later.			
3	Would you like to watch TV?	I'dto listen to some music.			
4	Do you want to go to a restaurant?	I'd ratherat home.			
5	Let's go now.	wait a few minutes.			
6	What about a game of tennis?	I'd preferfor a swim.			
7	I think we should decide now.	I'dthink about it for a while.			
8	Would you like to sit down?	to stand.			
9	Do you want me to come with you?	I'd ratheralone.			
NI.	our use the same ideas to complete th	ese sentences using than and rather than.			
		of a bus.			
	(3) I'd rather some music				
	at homeat homeat homeat homeat homeat homeat homeat homeat home				
	1'd preferabout it for a while				
	omplete the sentences using would yo				
	Are you going to make dinner or would you rather I made it				
	Are you going to pay the bill or would you rather				
	Are you going to do the shopping or				
4	Are you going to phone Tina or				
59.4 U	se your own ideas (one or two words)	to complete these sentences.			
1	'Shall I tell Anna what happened?' 'No	o, I'd rather she <u>didn't</u> know.'			
2	You can stay here if you want to, but I'd rather youwith us.				
	I don't like this programme. I'd rather not				
	I'd rather work outdoorswork in an office.				
5	This is a private matter. I'd rather youtell anybody else.				
	·	The weather here isn't bad, but I'd rather ita little warmer.			
	I don't want to go to the match. I'd preferit on TV.				
8	'Do you mind if I open the window?' 'I'd rather you				
	I hate doing the shopping. I'd rather somebody elseit.				
	I'd prefer to go to the beach				