Would like/want (wants and wishes)

$oldsymbol{1}$ You use would like to talk about something you want:

a would like to + infinitive:

I would like to be able to speak several languages. They would like to know what time we'll be back home.

b would like + noun:

They would like seats in the non-smoking section. We would like an English-German dictionary, please.

You can use the short form 'd for would after a pronoun:

We'd like to go now, please. He'd like to see you again on Thursday, if possible. I'd like you to do this for homework, please.

The negative is would not like or wouldn't like:

Don't be late. The boss wouldn't like that.



'I wouldn't like to meet him on a dark night.'

4 Stronger forms: would like – would love / wouldn't like – would hate

I'd love another ice-cream!

You know what I'd love? I'd love to travel around the world.

We'd hate to live somewhere cold

You use want to to talk about something you need or desire:

a want to + infinitive; negative don't want to + infinitive: I wanted to be a pilot when I was young.

We don't want to go shopping this afternoon.

Do you want to come with us?

b want + noun; negative don't want + noun; Do you want a cup of tea? Who wants another piece of cake?

I don't want dogs in my house.

Careful! You don't normally use I want when you are asking for something.

It is not polite. In a shop you don't say:

'I want a packet of chewing gum.'

It is better to say:

'Can/could I have a packet of chewing gum?' 'I'd like a packet of chewing gum, please.'



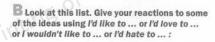
34 Practice

A What do they want? Using the pictures, match the requests and the reasons:

- 1 'Can I have a packet of cigarettes and a box of matches?'
- 2 'How much does it cost to stay in that hotel in France?'
- 3 'Where is Park Street, please?'
- 4 'Can I be excused, please?'
- 5 'I need flour, eggs, sugar, butter, milk and apples.'
- 6 'Please be quiet.'
- 7 'Could I ask you a few questions, Prime Minister?'
- 8 'Is this seat free?'

- a He wants to leave the room.
- b She wants to sit down.
- c She wants to make a cake.
- d They want to go to a party.
- e She wants to get some information.
- f They want a holiday.
- g He wants to study.
- h He wants to smoke.





e.g. I'd love to learn how to fly.
I wouldn't like to wake up at 4 a.m. every day.



Now find out three things your friend would like to do, and three things he/she wouldn't like to do.

speak English fluently speak several languages well be able to cook meet your favourite singer be famous go to New York next week be very rich have a sports car find a spider in my bed be 100 years old be in hospital live in a haunted house live in another country work in a noisy factory be a teacher/politician/stuntman wake up at 11 a.m. every day