

I'd rather . . .

A



Ann 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:

Positive

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 . . . ?

- 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 movies or watch a DVD 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 would rather 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 movies than** watch a DVD at home.
- I'd **rather be at home right now than** here.

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

<p>A</p> <p>1. Would you like to sit here?</p>		<p>B</p> <p>No, thanks. <u>I'd rather sit on the floor.</u></p>
<p>2. Don't you want to watch TV?</p>		<p>No, I <u>prefer reading my book.</u></p>
<p>3. Would you like some tea?</p>		<p>Well, <u>I'd rather have coffee if you have some.</u></p>
<p>4. Should we go out now?</p>		<p><u>I'd rather stay in until it stops raining.</u></p>

36.2 Complete these questions. Use *would you rather*

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

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

- I'd rather stay home tonight. I'd prefer not to go out.
- Should we walk home, or would you rather _____ a taxi?
- Do you want me to come with you, or would you prefer _____ alone?
- Mary doesn't want to go to college. She'd rather _____ a job.
- "Can I help you with your suitcase?" "No, thank you. I'd rather _____ it myself."
- I'd rather not _____ him. I'd prefer _____ him a letter.

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

- Which would you prefer to be – a bus driver or an airplane pilot?
I'd rather be a bus driver than an airplane pilot.
- Which would you prefer to be – a journalist or a school teacher?

- Where would you prefer to live – in a big city or a small town?

- Which would you prefer to have – a small house or a big one?

- Which would you prefer to study – electronics or philosophy?

- Which would you prefer to watch – a soccer game or a movie?
