EXPRESSING PREFERENCES

PREFER

When we say that we prefer one activity to another, we can use two -ing forms. The second one can be introduced by TO or RATHER THAN (More formal)

- I prefer walking to driving. (NOT I prefer walking to drive)
- She prefers reading a book rather than watching TV.

Prefer can also be followed by an infinitive. If we use it this way, in the second part of the sentence we can use an infinitive (without TO) or an -ing form after RATHER THAN.

- She prefers to walk rather than drive/driving.

We can also use nouns with the verb prefer instead of two verbs.

- I prefer the mountain to the beach.

WOULD PREFER / WOULD RATHER

These expressions mean the same, but they work in a different way.

- **WOULD PREFER** + INFINITIVE (with TO)
- **WOULD RATHER** + INFINITIVE (without TO)

- I would prefer to work from home.
- I would prefer to go in July rather than in November.
- I would prefer to eat out rather than cook /cooking.
- I would prefer not to drive at night.

- I would rather not watch this movie.
- I would rather go out than stay at home.
- Would you rather stay here or go the theatre?
PREFERENCES FOR OTHERS

WOULD PREFER

When we are talking about our preferences for the actions of another person, we can use:

- would prefer + object pronoun + infinitive (with TO)
- would prefer it if + past simple

- Would you prefer ME to tell her the truth?
- Would you prefer HIM to drive?

- Would you prefer IT IF I told her the truth?
- Would you prefer IT IF he drove?

WOULD RATHER

The structure we use in this case is:

- would rather + subject pronoun + past simple

- I would rather you told us how much it is.
- I would rather they didn’t come with us today.