

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.