

EXPRESSING PREFERENCES (prefer, would prefer, would rather)

Expressing Preferences

We often use words like *prefer*, *would prefer*, *would rather* to talk or ask about preferences.

"I prefer living on my own."

"Would you prefer to see a movie or go to a club?"

"Would you rather go shopping with me?"

Those expressions are quite **different in meaning** and this is why learners of English often find them challenging. So here is how we can separate them:

Difference in meaning:

We tend to use 'prefer' to talk generally about *likes*, *dislikes*, *what we want*.

"He prefers reading books."

"I prefer going to the beach than going to a swimming pool."

The expressions 'would prefer' and 'would rather', to be a little *more specific*.

"I would prefer to see him in person."

"I would rather go home now."

Difference in form:

Followed by a different verb form:

"I prefer living in a city." (followed by the **gerund**; the '**-ing**' ending)

"I would prefer to be told the truth." (followed by the **infinitive**; **to**+ the verb)

"Would you rather stay at a hotel?" (followed by the **base form** of the verb; the verb without 'to').

Different prepositions to state the choice.

prefer, would prefer – go with '**to**'

*"I'd prefer living in a city **to** living in the country."*

*"I would (I'd) prefer being alone **to** being with the wrong person".*

would rather – goes with '**than**'

*"I would (I'd) rather talk to him in person **than** call him on the phone."*

From:

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