

Would Rather in English

Practice Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Level: B2-C1

Focus: would rather + base verb / would rather someone + past simple

Quick reminder

- Use would rather + base verb: I'd rather stay at home.
- Use would rather not + base verb: We'd rather not wait.
- Use would rather someone + past simple: I'd rather you called first.
- Do not use to after would rather.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. I'd rather _____ at home tonight. (stay)
2. She'd rather not _____ about the problem now. (talk)
3. Would you rather _____ by train or by car? (travel)
4. We'd rather _____ early than arrive late. (leave)
5. He'd rather you _____ him before coming round. (call)
6. I'd rather they _____ the truth immediately. (know)
7. My parents would rather I _____ medicine. (study)
8. She'd rather not _____ in such bad weather. (drive)

Exercise 2. Choose the correct answer

1. I would rather ___ at home tonight.

- a) to stay
- b) stay
- c) staying

2. She'd rather he ___ first.

- a) calls
- b) called
- c) to call

3. We'd rather not ___ about money right now.

- a) talk
- b) to talk
- c) talked

4. **Would you rather ___ tea or coffee?**

- a) have
- b) to have
- c) having

5. **I'd rather you ___ that to anyone.**

- a) don't mention
- b) didn't mention
- c) not mention

6. **He'd rather walk than ___ for the bus.**

- a) waiting
- b) waited
- c) wait

Exercise 3. Rewrite using would rather

Rewrite each sentence using would rather. Keep the meaning the same.

1. I would prefer to stay in tonight.

2. She would prefer him to arrive a bit earlier.

3. We would prefer not to discuss it now.

4. Would you prefer to sit by the window?

5. He would prefer his children not to spend so much time online.

6. They would prefer to go by train instead of driving.

Exercise 4. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. I'd rather to stay at home tonight.

2. She'd rather he calls before visiting.

3. We'd rather not to go out in the rain.

4. I'd rather you don't tell anyone.

5. Would you rather to work from home?

Exercise 5. Speaking prompts

Answer the questions in full sentences using would rather where possible.

Question	Your answer
Would you rather live in the city or in the countryside?	<hr/> <hr/>
Would you rather work from home or in an office?	<hr/> <hr/>
Would you rather travel alone or with friends?	<hr/> <hr/>
Would you rather spend money on travel or on clothes?	<hr/> <hr/>

Exercise 6. Cambridge-style key word transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence. Use the word given. Use between two and five words, including the word given.

1. I would prefer to leave now. RATHER

I _____ now.

2. She would prefer him not to mention the mistake. RATHER

She _____ the mistake.

3. Would you prefer to eat at home tonight? RATHER

Would _____ at home tonight?

4. We would prefer not to travel during the rush hour. RATHER

We _____ during the rush hour.

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. stay
2. talk
3. travel
4. leave
5. called
6. knew
7. studied
8. drive

Exercise 2

1. b) stay
2. b) called
3. a) talk
4. a) have
5. b) didn't mention
6. c) wait

Exercise 3 – possible answers

1. I'd rather stay in tonight.
2. She'd rather he arrived a bit earlier.
3. We'd rather not discuss it now.
4. Would you rather sit by the window?
5. He'd rather his children did not spend so much time online.
6. They'd rather go by train than drive.

Exercise 4 – corrected sentences

1. I'd rather stay at home tonight.
2. She'd rather he called before visiting.
3. We'd rather not go out in the rain.
4. I'd rather you didn't tell anyone.
5. Would you rather work from home?

Exercise 6 – possible answers

1. I'd rather leave
2. She'd rather he didn't mention
3. you rather eat
4. We'd rather not travel