

# PREFER

We use prefer to say we like one thing or activity more than another.

**structure #1 - prefer something to something else**

- I prefer red wine to white.
- I prefer this coat to the other one.



**structure #2 - prefer doing something to doing something else**

- I prefer driving to travelling by train. / He prefers watching football to playing it.

**structure #3 - prefer doing something rather than (doing) something else**

- I prefer driving rather than travelling by train.

**structure #4 - prefer to do something rather than (do) something else**

- I prefer to drive rather than travel by train.
- Sarah prefers to live in the country rather than in a city.

**structure #5 - would prefer to do something**

we say 'would prefer to do something' (not usually would prefer doing):

- 'Shall we go by train?' 'I'd prefer to drive.'
- I'd prefer to stay at home tonight rather than go to the cinema.

**structure #6 - prefer + that clause (subjunctive) - formal**

- We'd prefer **that** this visit **be** kept confidential. / We prefer **that** he **pay** in cash.

**structure #7 - would prefer + object pronoun + to-infinitive**

**structure #8 - would prefer it if + past simple**

We use these structures to talk about our preferences for the actions of another person.

- They'd prefer us to come later. (or They'd prefer it if we came later.)
- Would you prefer me to drive? (or Would you prefer it if I drove?)

**structure #9 - prefer something (to be ) + adjective.**

- I prefer my coffee black. / I prefer my curry a little spicier.

## COMMON MISTAKES

**prefer something than something**

✗ A lot of young people **prefer** computer games **than** football.

✓ A lot of young people **prefer** computer games **to/ rather than** football.

**prefer to do something to to do something**

✗ I prefer to walk **to to** drive. / ✓ I prefer to walk **rather than** drive.