



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Would Rather in Teenage Life

Teenage Life | Preferences and unreal present wishes | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

| No. | Question |
|-----|--|
| 1 | What would you rather do after school: relax or finish homework immediately? |
| 2 | What would you rather your school changed about the timetable? |
| 3 | Would you rather have more independence or more support? |
| 4 | What would parents rather teenagers did at weekends? |

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Talking About Preferences

Teenagers often have strong preferences. Some students **would rather relax** after school, while others prefer to finish homework immediately.

Parents may see things differently. They might say that they **would rather their children spent** less time online and more time sleeping, exercising or talking with family.

At school, students sometimes say they **would rather teachers gave** shorter homework tasks but more useful feedback.

3. Notice the pattern

Use **would rather + infinitive** for your own preference. Use **would rather + subject + past simple** when you want someone else to do something differently now.

| Use | Form / signal | Example |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Own preference | would rather + infinitive | I would rather relax after school. |
| Other person's action | would rather + subject + past simple | Parents would rather teenagers slept earlier. |
| Negative | would rather not + infinitive | I would rather not study late at night. |
| Polite preference | would rather ... than ... | I would rather talk than argue. |

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

| No. | Prompt | Use | Your answer |
|-----|---|------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | I / relax / after school. | would rather | |
| 2 | Parents / teenagers / sleep / earlier. | would rather + past | |
| 3 | Students / teachers / give / more feedback. | would rather + past | |
| 4 | I / not / argue about rules. | would rather not | |

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

| Task | What to do |
|----------|--|
| Speaking | Discuss teenage choices using would rather to explain preferences. |
| Writing | Write a short paragraph about what students would rather schools changed. |
| Reading | Underline would rather structures in the context text and decide who has the preference. |

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

| No. | Mistake | Your correction |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1 | I would rather to relax after school. | |
| 2 | Parents would rather teenagers sleep earlier in this structure. | |
| 3 | Students would rather teachers give more feedback. | |
| 4 | I would rather not to argue. | |

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. Would you rather study alone or with friends?
2. What would you rather parents understood about teenage life?
3. Would students rather have fewer exams or less homework?
4. What would you rather do when you feel under pressure?

Would Rather in Teenage Life

4. Build accurate sentences

1. I would rather relax after school.
2. Parents would rather teenagers slept earlier.
3. Students would rather teachers gave more feedback.
4. I would rather not argue about rules.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. I would rather relax after school.
2. Parents would rather teenagers slept earlier.
3. Students would rather teachers gave more feedback.
4. I would rather not argue.

Notes for checking

1. Own preference: would rather + infinitive - I would rather relax after school.
2. Other person's action: would rather + subject + past simple - Parents would rather teenagers slept earlier.
3. Negative: would rather not + infinitive - I would rather not study late at night.
4. Polite preference: would rather ... than ... - I would rather talk than argue.