

WOULD RATHER & IT'S TIME

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Express preferences and say that an action is due.

1. READ: Leaving a party

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Amy: Shall we stay for one more song?

Kai: I'd rather leave now. We've got an early start.

Amy: Fair enough. I'll tell Jo.

Kai: I'd rather you didn't wake her if she's asleep upstairs. I'll text her.

Amy: Good idea. It's nearly midnight.

Kai: Yes, it's time we went home. I'll book a taxi.

2. GRAMMAR: Your action or someone else's action

Use would rather + base verb for your preference; with another subject, use a past form for now.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Same subject	would rather + base verb	I'd rather leave.
Different subject	would rather + subject + past	I'd rather you waited.
Action is due	it's time + subject + past	It's time we went.

Negative: I'd rather not drive. / I'd rather you didn't drive.

Alternative: It's time to leave. The past form in It's time we left refers to now.

Contrast: I'd rather walk than wait for the bus.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

- I'd rather stay / to stay here.
- I'd rather not go / don't go.
- I'd rather you call / called first.
- It's time we leave / left.
- I'd rather you didn't / don't smoke.
- It's time to go / going.
- I'd rather walk than / to wait.
- Would you rather eat / eating now?

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Deciding when to leave

Use the base verb, past form or to-infinitive according to the pattern.

1. I'd rather _____ (leave) now than miss the last bus.
2. I'd rather _____ (not / drive) tonight.
3. I'd rather you _____ (book) the taxi, if you don't mind.
4. I'd rather we _____ (not / wake) Jo.
5. It's time we _____ (go) home.
6. It's time _____ (say) goodbye to the others.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite with I'd rather.

Example: I prefer to walk. **I'd rather walk.**

1. I prefer not to drive.
2. Please wait; that's my preference.

3-4: Rewrite with It's time we. Example: We should go now. **It's time we went.**

3. We should leave now.
4. We should take a break now.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write a preference about your action, one about someone else's action and one action that is due.

Example: **I'd rather eat here. I'd rather you called first. It's time we made a decision.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Choose plans for an evening. Express preferences and negotiate a decision.

Explain why **it's time** to act. Keep requests polite by giving a reason.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Leaving a party

Sample target language from the conversation:

Kai: I'd rather leave now. We've got an early start.

Kai: I'd rather you didn't wake her if she's asleep upstairs. I'll text her.

Kai: Yes, it's time we went home. I'll book a taxi.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. stay | 2. not go |
| 3. called | 4. left |
| 5. didn't | 6. go |
| 7. than | 8. eat |

B. COMPLETE: Deciding when to leave

- | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|
| 1. leave | 2. not drive |
| 3. booked | 4. didn't wake / did not wake |
| 5. went | 6. to say |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. I'd rather not drive.
2. I'd rather you waited.
3. It's time we left.
4. It's time we took a break.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I'd rather walk. I'd rather we didn't spend much. It's time we chose a place.

Teacher note: Do not use to after would rather. The other-subject past form is not past time. It's time can sound critical, so discuss tone.