

UNIT 16

would rather ... than

'would rather... than' is used when there is a choice of two and one of the choices is preferred.

Example A

I like eating egg sandwiches. I like eating tuna sandwiches better.

Answer

I **would rather** eat tuna sandwiches **than** egg sandwiches.

NOTE:

Here is a simple example of using 'would rather... than' in a sentence. Note that the word 'eating' in the given sentence has been changed to 'eat'. This is not due to any change of tenses. Rather, 'would rather' is usually followed by a root verb. The word 'like' has been excluded from the answer. This is because 'would rather' has the same connotation.

Example B

Larry does not like writing as much as he likes reading.

Answer

Larry **would rather** read **than** write.

NOTE:

In a sentence like Example B, first make sure you know which is the preferred choice (in this case reading) before you proceed with your answer. Do be careful as some given sentences may be complex.

EXERCISE

For each question, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

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1. Albert will not cheat to win the competition.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
2. Patrick prefers surfing to diving.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
3. Mother likes watching dramas. She likes comedies more
_____ would rather _____ than _____
4. I think Sylvia should pick the ring and not the necklace.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
- *5. Tell me the truth. Don't lie.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
6. Gerald would not mind if his future wife was plain but he would hate it if she was silly.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
7. The general did not want his troops to be captured by the enemy. He preferred to sacrifice himself.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
8. I want to speak to you face to face. I do not like phone conversations.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
9. Freddy prefers listening to classical music but he doesn't mind the other genres either.
_____ would rather _____ than _____
- *10. The wealthy old tycoon decided to leave his money to charity after his death. He did not want his ungrateful family to have a single cent.
_____ would rather _____ than _____