

# PREFERENCES, WISHES, WANTS AND HOPES

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# PREFERENCES

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# 1) WOULD LIKE

- a) would like+ noun.
  - Ex. I would like some chocolate.
- b) would like+ to infinitive
  - Ex. I would like to finish soon.
- c) would like+ noun object+pronoun+ to infinitive.
  - Ex. I would like Peter to visit us.
- It is the same construction as want, but would like is more educated.

## 2) WOULD PREFER

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- a) would prefer+ noun.
  - Ex. I'd prefer a magazine.
- b) would prefer +to infinitive.
  - Ex She would prefer to stay.
- c) would prefer+ to infinitive...rather than+ bare infinitive.
  - Ex. I would prefer to stay rather than go.

### 3) PREFER

- a) Prefer+noun/v. –ing + to + noun/v. –ing.
  - Ex. I prefer coffee to tea. Or I prefer reading a book to watching TV.
- b) Prefer + to+ infinitive.
  - Ex. I prefer to stay at home tonight.
- c) Prefer + to infinitive... rather than+ bare infinitive.
  - Ex. I prefer to stay rather than leave.

## 4) WOULD RATHER

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- a) With no change in subject, followed by bare infinitive.
  - Ex. I'd rather sit and rest.
- b) With change in subject, followed by a past tense.
  - Ex. I'd rather you told me the plan.

# WISHES

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# WANTS & FIXED EXPRESSIONS

## Wants

- Wish + to infinitive = want.
- This is a very formal use of wish.
  - Ex. I wish to see a manager.
- Wish + Direct Object + to infinitive.
  - Ex. I wish our names to appear in the report.
- Fixed expressions
- Wish with two objects is used in some fixed expressions:
  - Ex. I wish you a Merry Christmas.
  - Ex. We all wish you a speedy recovery.

# HOPES

- The verb **hope** is often followed by a present tense with a future meaning, especially in the first person.
  - Ex. I hope she likes the flowers.
  - Ex. I hope she doesn't like the flowers.
- **Hope** can also be followed by an infinitive. In this structure, it expresses more confident hopes or plans.
  - Ex. I hope to spend a year in America after I leave the school

# WISHES

- We use **wish** and **if only** to express regrets and wishes for unlikely or impossible things. **If only** is more emphatic.
- 1) **Past reference**: to express a regret about the past.
  - **Wish+ past perfect**.
  - Ex. I wish you hadn't said that. (but you did)
  - Ex. If only I hadn't said that. (but I did)

- 2) Present or future reference (the time referred to is an unreal present)
  - Wish+ simple past.
  - Ex. If only I spoke French (but I don't)
  - Ex. I wish I was/ were taller. (were is more formal in 1st and 3rd person singular)

- 3)a) Future events:
  - Wish + could or have to
    - Ex. I wish I could drive.
    - Ex. I wish I didn't have to get up early tomorrow
- 3)b) Future events: would (annoying habits) It's a complain about a bad habit
  - Wish+ would+ bare infinitive.
    - Ex. I wish you wouldn't litter!
- This kind of wish may also refer to a specific action which you would like to happen.
  - Ex. I wish the police would do something about these people!
- In this case, the subject of wish is different from the subject of would. You talk about things that we would like people (not) to do.
  - Ex. I wish you would come!
  - Ex. If only it would stop raining.

**The End**