

LESSON 01 — B1 TEENS

□ Would You Rather...?

Making tough choices, giving reasons and using preference language

□ B1 Intermediate □ Reading □ Speaking □ 40 min

★ Lesson Objectives

- ✓ Read a text about making difficult decisions and preferences
- ✓ Learn vocabulary for expressing choices, preferences and reasons
- ✓ Use 'would rather', 'prefer', 'I'd choose... because...' structures
- ✓ Practice giving opinions with reasons and justifications
- ✓ Discuss hypothetical dilemmas with a partner
- ✓ Write a paragraph explaining and justifying a personal choice

1 Before You Read

- ▶ Would you rather be the funniest person in the room or the smartest?
- ▶ Would you rather live without music or without films?
- ▶ Is it easy or hard for you to make decisions? Why?

2 Reading: The Hardest Choices

The Hardest Choices

Every day, we make hundreds of decisions. Some are easy — what to eat for breakfast, which T-shirt to wear. But some choices are genuinely difficult, and the way we make them says a lot about who we are.

Psychologists say that when people face a "would you rather" dilemma, they don't just pick randomly. Their choice reveals their values. For example, "Would you rather be famous or be rich?" People who pick fame usually value connection and recognition. People who choose wealth often prioritise security and freedom.

Interestingly, teenagers tend to make faster decisions than adults. Researchers at Stanford University found that young people rely more on gut feeling, while adults spend more time weighing the pros and cons. Neither approach is necessarily better — sometimes your instinct is right, and sometimes careful thinking leads to a wiser choice.

Cultural background also affects decision-making. In collectivist cultures, people often consider how their choice will affect their family or community. In more individualist cultures, personal happiness usually comes first. "I would rather make my parents proud than follow my own dream," said Yuki, a 15-year-old student from Osaka. Meanwhile, Jake, 14, from California, said, "I'd prefer to do what makes me happy, even if others disagree."

The truth is, there are no perfect choices. Every option has advantages and disadvantages. The important thing is to think about why you prefer one thing over another — and to respect that other people might choose differently.

3 Vocabulary

Word	Definition	Example
dilemma	a situation where you must choose between two difficult options	"It was a real dilemma — study abroad or stay close to family."
reveal	to show something that was hidden	"Your choices reveal your true personality."
values	the things you believe are important in life	"Honesty is one of my core values."
prioritise	to decide that something is the most important	"I prioritise health over convenience."
gut feeling	an instinctive feeling without logical reason	"I had a gut feeling it was the right choice."
weigh the pros and cons	to consider the advantages and disadvantages	"Let's weigh the pros and cons before deciding."
instinct	a natural tendency to behave a certain way	"My first instinct was to say yes."
approach	a way of dealing with a situation	"She has a practical approach to problem-solving."
collectivist	putting the group's needs before individual needs	"Japan is often described as a collectivist culture."
individualist	putting personal freedom and independence first	"The US has a more individualist culture."

Word	Definition	Example
advantage	a positive point or benefit	"One advantage of city life is public transport."
disadvantage	a negative point or drawback	"The main disadvantage is the cost."
genuine(ly)	real, true, honest	"It was a genuinely hard decision."
recognition	being known or appreciated by others	"She finally got recognition for her work."
wiser	showing good judgement (comparative of wise)	"Waiting was the wiser choice."
respect (v)	to accept and value someone's opinion	"I respect your decision, even if I disagree."

Useful Collocations: make a decision • face a dilemma • weigh the pros and cons • follow your instinct • personal values • gut feeling • tough choice • come first

4 Grammar: Expressing Preferences

□ In the Text, You Saw...

would rather + base verb: "I would rather make my parents proud than follow my own dream."

prefer + to-infinitive: "I'd prefer to do what makes me happy."

prioritise / value: "People who choose wealth often prioritise security."

Structure	Form	Example
would rather ... than	would rather + base verb + than + base verb	I'd rather travel than save money.
prefer ... to	prefer + noun/gerund + to + noun/gerund	I prefer reading to watching TV.
would prefer + to	would prefer + to-infinitive	I'd prefer to stay home tonight.
I'd choose ... because	I'd choose + noun + because + reason	I'd choose fame because I love attention.
For me, ... is more important	For me, + noun + is more important than + noun	For me, freedom is more important than money.

□ Giving Reasons

because / because of: "I'd rather live in a city because there are more opportunities." / "Because of the weather, I'd choose Spain."

The reason is (that)...: "The reason is that I value my free time."

The main advantage/disadvantage is...: "The main advantage is you can meet new people."

▲ Common Mistakes

~~I would rather to travel.~~ → I would rather travel. (no "to" after would rather)

~~I prefer reading than watching TV.~~ → I prefer reading to watching TV. (prefer ... to, not than)

~~I'd rather staying home.~~ → I'd rather stay home. (base verb, not -ing)

5 Match the Halves

#	Beginning	Ending
1	I'd rather be honest	than lie to make someone happy.
2	She prefers studying alone	to working in a group.
3	I'd choose the countryside	because it's more peaceful.
4	He'd rather play football	than watch it on TV.
5	For me, health is more important	than money or success.
6	The main disadvantage of fame	is that you lose your privacy.
7	I'd prefer to learn by doing	rather than just reading about it.
8	She'd rather spend time with family	than go to a big party.
9	The reason I chose this school	is that it has great teachers.
10	They prefer travelling by train	to flying because it's more relaxing.

6 Comprehension Quiz

1. According to the text, what do your choices in a dilemma reveal?

Answer: Your values

2. Teenagers tend to make decisions...

Answer: Faster than adults

3. What do adults spend more time doing?

Answer: Weighing the pros and cons

4. In collectivist cultures, people often consider...

Answer: How their choice affects their family

5. What does the text say about 'perfect choices'?

Answer: There are no perfect choices

6. "I'd rather travel than save money" — which structure is this?

Answer: would rather ... than

7. Which sentence is CORRECT?

Answer: I prefer cooking to eating out.

8. Yuki from Osaka would rather...

Answer: Make her parents proud

7 Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: rather • prefer • to • than • because • advantage • reason • disadvantage

1. I'd _____ learn Spanish _____ French.

2. She prefers walking _____ taking the bus.

3. The main _____ of living abroad is learning a new language.

4. I'd choose science _____ it's useful for many careers.

5. He'd _____ to work from home.

6. The _____ I like this city is that it's safe.

7. One _____ of fame is the lack of privacy.

8. They'd _____ eat at home than go to a restaurant.

Answers: 1. rather, than • 2. to • 3. advantage • 4. because • 5. prefer • 6. reason • 7. disadvantage • 8. rather

8 Speaking & Writing

◆ Discussion Questions

□ Would you rather be able to fly or be invisible? Why?

Would you rather have no homework forever or no exams forever?

Would you rather live 200 years in the past or 200 years in the future?

Do you usually follow your gut feeling or weigh the pros and cons?

Would you rather be very talented at one thing or quite good at many things?

◆ Example Dialogue

A: Would you rather be famous or be rich?

B: I'd rather be rich than famous because I value my privacy.

A: Really? I'd prefer fame to money. The reason is that I want people to know my work.

B: I understand, but for me, the main disadvantage of fame is that you can't go anywhere alone.

A: That's true. I suppose the best choice depends on your values.

⇒ Writing Task

Write 80–120 words answering ONE of these questions. Use at least 3 preference structures (would rather, prefer... to, I'd choose... because, the main advantage/disadvantage is...):

Option A: Would you rather live in a huge city or a small village? Why?

Option B: Would you rather have the power to read minds or the power to travel through time? Why?

9 Would You Rather? — The Game

This interactive game is available in the online version of this lesson. Play 5 rounds of "Would You Rather?" and practise writing your reasons using preference structures!

Round	Option A	Option B
1	Be able to speak every language in the world	Be able to play every musical instrument
2	Have unlimited free travel forever	Have unlimited free food forever
3	Always know when someone is lying	Always be able to get away with lying

Round	Option A	Option B
4	Live without your phone for a year	Live without your best friend for a year
5	Be the funniest person in every room	Be the smartest person in every room

10 Review Checklist

- ✓ I can understand a text about decision-making and preferences
- ✓ I can use vocabulary related to choices, values and dilemmas
- ✓ I can use "would rather... than" correctly
- ✓ I can use "prefer... to" correctly
- ✓ I can give reasons for my choices using because, the reason is, advantage/disadvantage
- ✓ I can discuss and write about hypothetical preferences



Congratulations!

You have completed Lesson 1: Would You Rather...?