‘Rather than’ and ‘would rather’

We can use ‘rather’ to compare things. There are two main structures.

Rather than = more than / instead of. We usually use the infinitive without 'to' if we need a verb after 'than' here.

- She took a taxi rather than walk in the rain.
- He wants tea rather than coffee.

Would rather = would prefer. We always use the infinitive without 'to' after this. We often shorten 'would' to 'd. We can also use 'than' if we want to add another choice.

- A: Do you want to go to a restaurant? B: I would rather go home.
- I'd rather be a doctor than a dentist.

'I'd rather not' is also a polite way to say 'no'.

Let's review! Put in 'would rather' or 'rather than'.

1. I ______________________ go to Scotland than England this year.
2. He wants water ______________________ coke.
3. She is going to study maths ______________________ physics.
4. She ______________________ eat later.
5. The children ______________________ have ice cream.
6. We can walk ______________________ take the car.
7. He ______________________ stay at home today.
8. We should do some exercise ______________________ sit on the sofa all day!
9. He eats vegetables ______________________ meat.
10. I ______________________ practise English than watch TV.
Answers

1. I would rather go to Scotland than England this year.
2. He wants water rather than coke.
3. She is going to study maths rather than physics.
4. She would rather eat later.
5. The children would rather have ice cream.
6. We can walk rather than take the car.
7. He would rather stay at home today.
8. We should do some exercise rather than sit on the sofa all day!
9. He eats vegetables rather than meat.
10. I would rather practise English than watch TV.