

UNIT 56 *Would like to; Want to; Would prefer to / Would rather*

A
Would is often followed by the verb **like**. It is a conditional form that expresses willingness, wishes, etc.

Affirmative

I / You / He / She / It / We / They would like
'd like

Negative

I / You / He / She / It / We / They would not like
wouldn't like

Interrogative

Would I / you / he / she / it / we / they like...?

Negative questions

Wouldn't I / you / he / she / it / we / they like...?

Short answers: Yes, / No, + subject pronoun + would / wouldn't.

Would like can be followed by a verb in the infinitive or a noun.

I would like to have another chance.

Wouldn't you like a sandwich?

Would like is used to:

- offer something (in the interrogative form).

'Would you like something to eat?' 'No, thanks, I wouldn't.'

'What would you like to drink?' 'Some fruit juice, please.'

Compare the use of **Will you have...? / Would you have...?** (see p. 178).

'I'd like to see those shoes, please.' 'Sure.'

'We'd like two coffees, please.' 'Here you are.'

B

In more informal situations, the regular verb **want** is used. Like **would like**, this can be followed by a verb in the infinitive or a noun.

He wants to play with you.

Do you want a cup of tea, Mum?

In spoken America, **want to** → **wanna**: *I wanna go home.*

C

To say that you want someone to do something, the following construction is used:

I want / would like someone to do something not: ~~I would like that someone does something~~ (see p.143).

We'd like our son to become an engineer.

I'd like you to give me another chance.

He wanted me to help him, but I couldn't.

D

To express preference, we use the constructions:

I would prefer to / I'd prefer to + base form of verb

I would rather / I'd rather + base form of verb (+ than...)

I'd prefer to go / I would rather go to the sea than to the mountains.

I'd rather walk than cycle.

She would rather stay here a bit longer than go back home right now.

Student's notes

EXERCISES

Would like to; Want to; Would prefer to / Would rather UNIT 56

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

56.1 Use the words to write sentences with *would like (to)*.

- 1 I / a pineapple milkshake
- 2 She / go skiing on Saturday
- 3 They / roast chicken for lunch
- 4 We / play tennis tomorrow
- 5 I / visit Spain next summer
- 6 He / some ham sandwiches.

56.2 Complete the questions with *would like to* and one verb from the box.

eat stay pay meet buy know

- 1 Where you this evening?
- 2 Who he at the party?
- 3 When they at our house?
- 4 Why she about me?
- 5 Which ring you for your girlfriend?
- 6 How they for their meal?

56.3 Someone else will do these things. Rewrite the sentences with *would like* and the suggestions given.

- 1 I'd like a new bike. (Dad / give)
I
- 2 She wants pancakes with her tea. (Mum / make)
She
- 3 I'd like an umbrella. (someone / lend)
I
- 4 Jane wants a beach party. (her friends / organise)
Jane
- 5 They want a holiday in Greece. (their parents / book)
.....
- 6 We'd like a grant to study abroad. (the university / give)
.....

56.4 Rewrite the sentences with *would rather* or *would prefer to*.

- 1 I would rather go to the cinema tonight.
.....
- 2 He would rather stay at home on Saturday.
.....
- 3 Liam would prefer to eat fish than meat.
.....
- 4 My brother would rather go to France for his holidays.
.....
- 5 Alan would prefer not to play rugby tomorrow.
.....
- 6 Denise would rather wear her red dress to the party.
.....

Teacher's observations