

Language Learning- Likes, Preferences and Desires

Practice and presentation of the language of likes, dislikes, preferences and desires

Find out about your partner's desires and preferences and make recommendations on good language ideas especially for them. If you are working with your teacher, you can imagine that they want to study another language, e.g. your language.

Useful language for asking about likes, preferences and desires

Do you enjoy...?

Do you like...?

Do you prefer ... or...?

Do you want...?

What's your favourite...?

Would you like...?

Would you prefer... or...?

Useful phrases for giving advice

In that case, I suggest.../ I think you should.../ my advice is to.../ you could...

... go to.../...try.../...study.../...buy...

What do you think?/ Do you agree?

Useful phrases for responding to advice

I agree./ I think you're right.

Really?/ Do you think so? I think.../ I can see your point, but I would say...

Actually, I don't think that's (such) a good idea.

Suggested language learning topics to ask about/ talk about

British English – American English – Australian English

Business English – general English

DVD – cinema/ movie theater

English for international communication – native speaker English

English subtitles – subtitles in your own language

English-speaking friends

TV – DVDs

accuracy – fluency

basic English – higher level English

children's TV

children's movies

classic books – modern books

classic movies – modern movies

comics

comprehension – production

do self-study – study seriously in class

drama – action movie – comedy

emails – letters

exams

fiction

graded readers – books for native speakers

grammar – vocabulary
idioms
improve your confidence – have all your mistakes corrected
individual sounds – stress and intonation
karaoke
local news – international news
magazines
meet new people
movies
music
news
non-fiction
online news – newspapers
politics
public speaking/ giving speeches/
radio
read
reading slowly and carefully – reading for pleasure
revision/ review – new language
sitting still – being (physically) active
slang
study – chat
subtitles – dubbing
translation – just English
travel English – English for use in your own country
use a smartphone – use a computer
use technology
videoconference – teleconference
watch the same thing again
websites
writing

The language of likes, preferences and desires presentation

In small groups, work together to answer these questions:

Which of these forms must be followed by “to + verb” (= can only be followed by “to + verb”)?

- Do you like...?
- Do you enjoy...?
- Would you like...?
- Do you want...?
- Would you prefer... or...?
- Do you prefer ... or...?

Which of these forms have the same meaning as each other?

- Do you enjoy...?
- Do you like...?
- Do you prefer ... or...?
- Do you want...?
- What's your favourite...?
- Would you like...?
- Would you prefer... or...?

What are the differences in meaning between these forms?

- Do you like...?/ Would you like to...?
- Would you like...?/ Would you prefer...?
- Do you prefer ... or...?/ Would you prefer... or...?

Check your answers as a class or below the fold.

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Suggested answers

Which of these forms must be followed by “to + verb” (= can only be followed by “to + verb”)?

- Would you like...?
- Do you want...?
- Would you prefer... or...?

Which of these forms have the same meaning as each other?

- Do you enjoy...?/ Do you like...?
- Do you want...?/ Would you like...?

What are the differences in meaning between these forms?

- Do you like...?/ Would you like to...? – (Present) like/ (Future) desire
- Would you like...?/ Would you prefer...? – (Future) desire/ Comparing two or more different future desires
- Do you prefer ... or...?/ Would you prefer... or...? – Comparing two or more (present) likes/ Comparing two or more (future) desires

Freer speaking practice of the language of likes, desires and preferences

Find out about your partner's likes, desire and preferences and try to recommend something they have never tried in one of the categories below:

- Movies
- Books
- Exercise/ Sport
- Music
- Places to go
- Food
- Restaurants
- Websites
- Magazines
- Things to study/ Ways of studying

More suggested phrases

Would you like to try something different, or would you prefer more of the same thing?

What kind of... do you like?

If you like..., you will love...

How do you feel about...?

Would you like to improve your...?