Grammar Reference

1. Expression of preference

Two related expressions are used to speak of **preference**.

- **'Would prefer'** (**"d prefer'**) precedes a **nominal group**, a **gerund**, or an **infinitive**.

Example: We **would prefer one payment**.
  Would you **prefer staying** at home?
  I**'d prefer to talk** to someone else.

Note: In sentences containing **'would prefer'**, **negations** are placed before the main verb (an **infinitive**).

Example: I**'d prefer not to meet** him.

- **'Would rather'** is used mainly in **speech**. It precedes an **infinitive without 'to'** when only one subject is present (i.e., the verb takes the same subject as does **'would rather'**), and a **past subjunctive** otherwise.

Example: **Would** you **rather be** in a compartment?
  We**'d rather** he **went** now.

Note: When only one subject is present, **negations precede the infinitive**. Where there are two subjects, **negations** are applied to the **conjugated verb**.

Example: She**'d rather not stay** alone.
  I**'d rather** we **did**n't **invite** him.

2. Verbs introducing a second action

Many **verbs** expressing an **invitation to act** are followed by **'to'** + **infinitive**. These include **'to ask'**, **'to invite'**, **'to encourage'**, **'to dissuade'**, **'to lead'**, **'to advise'**, **'to warn'**, **'to tell'**, **'to order'**, etc.

Example:

My mom **asked** me **to do** the shopping.
I'm **invited to go** to dinner with him.
That would **lead** you **to come back** early.
The boss **told** me **to proofread** a new document.

3. Emphatic 'do'

Simple affirmative clauses may include the **modal auxiliary 'do'** to express **emphasis**. **'Do'** may serve any of the following purposes:

- **insistence** on the speaker's or writer's point of view; **confirmation** of what precedes

Example: She **does** look pretty.
He said it would rain and it **did** rain.
You **did** get the contract I sent you, didn't you?

Note: The main verb is sometimes omitted.
Example: I was sure I would fail and I **did**.

- **contradiction**

Example: He didn't come to the party yesterday.
He **did** come but he didn't stay long.

- **persuasion** using the imperative

Example: I can't do it! It's too difficult!
Do try again.

Note: In speech, the **auxiliary "do"** is stressed.