Expressing Preferences and Present / Past Abilities

E11.2.L1 / E11.2.S1. Talk about likes, dislikes, interests, and preferences · E11.2.R1. Distinguish between general preferences and specific preferences · E11.2.W1. Express present, past general, and past specific abilities

HATIRLAYALIM

- General preferences use 'prefer + V-ing to V-ing' or 'prefer noun to noun' (e.g., I prefer reading to watching TV).
- Specific preferences use 'would rather + V1 than V1' or 'would prefer to V1 rather than V1' (e.g., I would rather stay home tonight).
- 'Could' denotes general past ability, while 'was/were able to' emphasizes succeeding in a specific difficult task in the past.

1 EŞLEŞTİRME

Match the English preference and ability structures with their grammatical patterns.

1	2	3	4
1. Prefer	2. Would Rather	3. Would Prefer	4. Past Ability
V-ing + TO + V-ing	V1 + THAN + V1	to V1 + RATHER THAN + V1	could vs was able to

a 1. prefer + V-ing to V-ing

c 2. would rather + V1 than V1

b 3. was / were able to

d 4. could + V1

a) Expressing habitual and general routine preferences in daily life

b) Managing to achieve a challenging outcome in a specific past event

c) Expressing a specific choice or immediate preference at this moment

d) Describing general physical or mental capability throughout past years

2 BOŞLUK DOLDURMA

Fill in the blank with the correct preposition used with the verb 'prefer'.

PREFER PATTERNS: GENERAL ROUTINE PREFERENCES

Subject	Verb: prefer	Gerund 1	Preposition: to
I / You / She	habitual action	studying (V-ing)	to working (V-ing)

to

1. Mark generally prefers studying in the quiet university library _____to_____ working in noisy downtown cafes.

3 ÇOKTAN SEÇMELİ

Which sentence correctly expresses a specific preference using 'would rather'?

WOULD RATHER: SPECIFIC CHOICE FORMULA

Preferred Option	Alternative Option
Subject + would rather + Bare Verb 1 (cook)	+ THAN + Bare Verb 1 than eat cold fast food

A Tonight, I would rather order fresh Italian pasta than eat cold fast food.

B Tonight, I would rather ordering fresh Italian pasta to eat cold fast food.

C Tonight, I would rather to order fresh Italian pasta than eating fast food.

D Tonight, I would rather eaten fresh Italian pasta over cold fast food.

4 ÇOKTAN SEÇMELİ

Despite the heavy blizzard and icy roads yesterday, our delivery team ..... reach the remote mountain clinic safely.

PAST ABILITY: COULD VS WAS / WERE ABLE TO

COULD (General)	WAS ABLE TO (Specific)
Past general ability	Overcoming a challenge
I could swim when I was 5	We managed to escape fire

A cannot ever

B could generally

C was able to

D prefers reaching

5 BOŞLUK DOLDURMA

Fill in the blank with the correct modal auxiliary.

could

1. Mozart had remarkable talent; he _____could_____ play the piano brilliantly when he was only five years old.

6 ÇOKTAN SEÇMELİ

Which sentence correctly illustrates a general routine preference comparing two recreational activities?

(A) She would rather to cycling in the park than swim in the pool.

(B) She prefers riding her bicycle outdoors to swimming in an indoor pool.

(C) She would rather swimming than she prefers riding her bicycle.

(D) She prefers to ride outdoors than swimming in the municipal pool.

7 ÇOKTAN SEÇMELİ

Look at the visual showing 'prefer vs would rather'. What is the critical grammatical distinction between their comparative conjunctions?

MODAL TIMELINE: ABILITY ACROSS TIME

Present Ability	Past Ability
can / am able to	could (general)
I can speak German	was able to (specific)

(A) Both structures require the conjunction 'because' in every single context.

(B) Both verbs must take an infinitive with 'to' and end with 'over'.

(C) Prefer connects two gerunds with 'and', while would rather needs 'or'.

(D) Prefer connects choices with 'to', whereas would rather connects with 'than'.

8 BOŞLUK DOLDURMA

Fill in the blank with the appropriate base verb form.

KEY GRAMMAR CHECKPOINTS

Rule 1	Rule 2	Rule 3	Rule 4
prefer ... to	would rather	than ... V1	was able to

cook

1. I would rather _____cook_____ (cook) dinner at home tonight than dine at an expensive downtown restaurant.

9 AÇIK UÇLU

Explain the difference between 'could' and 'was able to' when describing past events.

Could expresses general ability; was able to shows success in a specific challenge.

10 EŞLEŞTİRME

Match the sentences with the appropriate communicative function.

PREFERENCE STRUCTURES AND CONJUNCTIONS MATRIX

Structure	Verb Form	Connector	Context
prefer	Gerund (V-ing)	TO	General Routine
would rather	Base Verb (V1)	THAN	Specific Moment
would prefer	Infinitive (to V1)	RATHER THAN	Specific Choice

b 1. I can speak three languages fluently.

c 2. When I was six, I could climb tall trees.

d 3. I would rather drink tea right now.

a 4. We were able to solve the puzzle in time.

a) Past specific achievement

b) Present general ability

c) Past general capability

d) Specific immediate preference

11 ÇOKTAN SEÇMELİ

Choose the sentence that correctly uses 'would prefer' to state a specific choice.

WOULD PREFER: CLAUSE COMPONENTS

1. Subject	2. Verb Form	3. Connector	4. Base Verb
We / They / He	would prefer to V1	rather than	drive in traffic

(A) We would prefer to take the express train rather than drive through rush-hour traffic.

(B) We would prefer taking the express train than driving through morning traffic.

(C) We would prefer to take the express train to drive through morning traffic.

(D) We would prefer take the express train rather driving through city traffic.

12 ÇOKTAN SEÇMELİ

Why is 'was able to' preferred over 'could' in the sentence: 'The fire spread rapidly, but everyone ..... escape unharmed'?

(A) Because escaping a fire represents a lifelong daily routine for civilians

(B) Because it expresses successful management of a specific emergency event

(C) Because could is never used with human subjects in modern English

(D) Because was able to can only be used with negative verbs in formal texts