

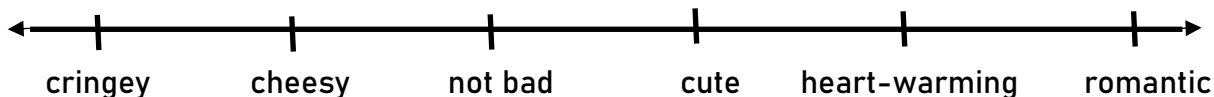
Valentine's Day

"All you need is love" – John Lennon

- Do you like Valentine's Day?
- What is your least favourite holiday?
- What would your perfect date be?
- Do you like romantic movies or songs?
- Have you ever received a present or a card for Valentine's Day? What was it?



 1. Read through the romantic quotes below with a partner and put them on a scale between "cringey" and "romantic."



Note: Cheesy means something that has been done so many times before that many people are tired of it. You can think something is cheesy but still like it. Eg. "I know it's cheesy, but I still like it when a man buys me flowers."

- "You know you're in love when you can't fall asleep because reality is finally better than your dreams." – Dr Seuss.
- "Love is friendship on fire." – Susan Sontag
- "The best smell in the world is a man that you love". – Jennifer Aniston
- "I loved you yesterday, I love you still, I always have, and always will." – Elaine Davis
- "I saw that you were perfect, and so I loved you. Then I saw that you were not perfect and I loved you even more." – Angelita Lim
- "I fell in love with you like you would fall asleep. Slowly and then all at once." – John Green
- "Love is shown more in actions than in words." – Saint Ignatius
- "You're the closest to heaven that I will ever be." – The Goo Goo Dolls

Rather and Prefer

The words "rather" and "prefer" mean that we like one thing more than another.

Eg. "I would rather have a picnic in the park than go to a restaurant."

These words are often used with "would."

"Prefer" is often followed by *to + base verb*, but rather is followed by the base verb without the "to."


Eg. "I'd prefer to stay at home tonight." vs "I'd rather stay at home tonight."

Note: "would" is often shortened to "d", as seen in the examples above.

 2. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner. Give reasons for your answer.

- a) Would you rather go to a restaurant or have a picnic in the park?
- b) Would you prefer to get flowers or chocolates for Valentine's Day?
- c) Would you rather spend a romantic weekend in Hawaii or in New York?
- d) Would you rather live 100 years in the future or 100 years in the past?
- e) Would you rather your partner forgets Valentine's Day or forgets your anniversary?
- f) Would you prefer to only eat pizza for five years or never eat pizza again?
- g) Would you prefer to plan a holiday with your partner or have them surprise you with a holiday they have planned alone?
- h) Would you rather live for 300 years or get 100 million dollars?



 3. Think of three of your own "would you rather" questions about any subject and ask your partner your questions.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

4. Look at the ideas for dates below and match them to the words in the box. Can you think of any more good date ideas?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| art museum <i>g)</i> | scuba diving <i>e)</i> | hiking <i>c)</i> | fancy restaurant <i>f)</i> |
| ice skating <i>a)</i> | dance class <i>b)</i> | go-karting <i>d)</i> | flea market <i>h)</i> |

a)



b)



c)



d)



e)



f)




g)



h)



 **5. Pairwork: look at the dates from exercise 4 and ask your partner at least 5 “would you rather” questions about some of the dates.**


Eg. *“Would you rather go to a flea market or do a dance class?”*

Rhetorical Questions

Rhetorical questions are questions which the speaker does not really want an answer for, and is trying to make a point with the question.

Eg. *“I think Valentine’s Day is too focused on buying things. Why do I need to buy something to show my girlfriend I love her?”*

These questions can be a great way of emphasizing your point.

 **6. Read the quotes below from people talking about Valentine’s Day and put the correct rhetorical question at the end of each quote. Which opinions do you agree with?**

- a) Why should I feel bad just because other people are happy?
- b) Why should we wait until one specific day of the year to do something romantic?
- c) Why does it have to be such a big deal?
- d) Why does it just have to be about romantic love?
- e) Why do I have to get something for her when she doesn't get anything for me?


Sasha: “I love it, but I don’t celebrate it the way most people do. I make silly Valentine’s cards for my friends and family, and I often buy my sister a box of chocolates and eat them with her.?” *d)*

Dan: “Me and my girlfriend argue every year over Valentine’s Day, I hate it. I buy her chocolates or flowers, but she says I need to get her something bigger. The funny thing is she never buys anything for me.?” *e)*

Mel: “I don’t really get Valentine’s Day. I can go on a romantic date with my husband any time I want. I would rather him surprise me with something romantic on a random day than do a cheesy Valentine’s Day date.?” *b)*

Charlie: “I have been single every Valentine’s Day of my life! But I don’t let that get me down, I still think the idea of celebrating love is great.?” *a)*

Jen: “I don’t mind Valentines Day as long as my partner keeps it simple. I don’t want a big date or a huge present, I just want to spend time with him and have some wine and chocolate.?” *c)*

 7. Write your own opinion of Valentine's Day below. Try to finish your opinion with a rhetorical question to emphasize your point.

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 8. Liam is asking his friend Debbie for some advice for a Valentine's Day date. Listen to the audio and answer the questions.

- How does Debbie feel about Valentine's Day and why? *She hates it because it's cheesy and it makes single people feel lonely*
- What did Liam and his girlfriend do last year for Valentine's Day? *Nothing*
- Does Debbie know Liam's girlfriend well? *No, she has to ask for her name twice*
- What type of valentine's date does Debbie prefer? *She prefers staying at home, cooking dinner and watching a movie with her boyfriend.*
- Why doesn't Liam want to go scuba diving? *It's too expensive, and he is trying to save money for a car.*
- What date does Liam choose in the end? Do you think you would enjoy this date? *Horse riding*

Audio Transcript

Liam: Hi Debbie, do you mind if I ask you a question?

Debbie: Hi Liam, of course, what can I help you with?

Liam: Well, it's about valentine's day. I have a date with my girlfriend on Valentine's day, but I want to make it really special and romantic.

Debbie: Oh I hate valentine's day!

Liam: Really? You don't think it's romantic?

Debbie: No, it always just seems a bit.. a bit cheesy to me. And I think it makes people feel lonely if they are single.

Liam: That's a good point but my girlfriend doesn't agree. She was very angry with me last year on Valentine's day.

Debbie: Why? What did you do last year?

Liam: Well... we did nothing. That was the problem. I completely forgot about it.

Debbie: Ah I see. What's your girlfriend's name again?

Liam: Her name is Sharon.

Debbie: And do you think she would like a typical romantic date, like dinner at a fancy restaurant and a movie and some flowers?

Liam: Mmm actually I think she'd prefer something a bit different. She said last year that she would prefer to do something exciting, something with a bit of adventure. What kind of valentine dates do you prefer?

Debbie: Well, I don't mind going out for valentines dates, but to be honest I prefer staying at home, cooking a really nice dinner, and then watching TV with my boyfriend.

Liam: So you wouldn't like something like going scuba diving or camping?

Debbie: Mmm, I'd rather not, I'm not really an outdoors type of person. But this isn't about me, it's about... I'm sorry, what was her name again?

Liam: Sharon.

Debbie: Right. It's about Sharon. What type of date do you think she'd prefer?

Liam: Well she already said she would prefer not do a typical romantic date with a restaurant and a movie, she said she finds it too cheesy. And she doesn't want to stay at home. I think she would prefer to do something outdoors, something that is a bit surprising and unexpected.

Debbie: Mmm, you mentioned scuba diving, you could do that.

Liam: I'd rather not do that, it's too expensive.

Debbie: Liam! You can't be so cheap when it comes to love!

Liam: No, Sharon doesn't like me spending a lot of money, we're trying to save money for a new car.

Debbie: Ok fair enough...well I have two other ideas. You could go to a horse riding camp? Me and my boyfriend did that last Christmas and it was a lot of fun, and very romantic. Or you could go camping in the mountains. Which do you think she would prefer?

Liam: Well Sharon likes the outdoors, but she hates camping, she likes sleeping in a bed. I think she'd prefer the horse riding. She does like horses.... That's a great idea, thanks very much!

Debbie: No problem at all.