

[ˈrɑːðə] *adv*1. (*обыкн.* rather than)

1) лучше, скорее; охотнее, предпочитательнее

anything rather than ... - что угодно, лишь бы не ...

I had rather, I would rather, I'd rather - я предпочёл бы ...; лучше уж я ...; я бы охотнее ...

I had rather start at once - я предпочёл бы выехать немедленно

I would rather go - я лучше уйду, я предпочитаю уйти

I'd rather people didn't know about it - я хотел бы, чтобы об этом не знали

I'd rather you came tomorrow - меня больше устроило бы, если бы вы пришли завтра

he resigned rather than stifle his conscience - не желая действовать против совести, он вышел в отставку

they determined to die rather than surrender - они решили умереть, но не сдаваться

would you rather take tea or coffee? - что вы предпочитаете, чай или кофе?

I had rather not, I would rather not, I'd rather not - *разг.* мне не хочется; нет, спасибо; пожалуй, не стоит (*формула отказа от предложения и т. п.*)

2) скорее, больше; правильное

it is rather good than bad - это скорее хороший /хорошо/, чем плохой /плохо/

derived rather from imagination than reason - это скорее плод воображения, чем логический вывод

the colour seems green rather than blue - это скорее зелёный цвет, чем синий

he relies on mere abuse rather than on argument - его метод не аргументация, а брань

I, rather than you, should take the risk - (этот) риск должен взять на себя я, а вовсе /отнюдь/ не вы

2. до некоторой степени, довольно, отчасти, несколько; пожалуй

rather dull [interesting, dark, lengthy] - довольно скучный [интересный, тёмный, долгий]

rather more - немного больше

rather more detailed - несколько более подробный

rather a lot - пожалуй, слишком много /многовато/

I rather like him - мне он, пожалуй /скорее/, нравится

he felt rather tired - он немного устал, он чувствовал некоторую усталость

the performance was rather a failure - спектакль был довольно неудачный

I rather think you know him - мне думается, вы его знаете

she is rather good-looking - она недурна собой

our company numbered rather over forty - нас было сорок с чем-то человек

they rather expected to win - они, в известной мере, рассчитывали на победу

I am rather inclined to agree with you - я, пожалуй, склонен с вами согласиться

do I look ill? - Well, you do rather - *разг.* я плохо выгляжу? - Пожалуй, да /Да, неважно/

3. 1) наоборот, отнюдь не

rather, we have won - наоборот, мы победили

2) а не, вместо

to elect a chairman for a year rather than a term - выбрать председателя на год, а не на семестр

this is not the result, rather it is the cause - это является причиной, а отнюдь не следствием

3) вернее, правильное; по правде говоря

we came home late last night or, rather, early this morning - мы пришли домой вчера поздно ночью, а вернее сказать, сегодня рано утром

the building is a great success, or rather a triumph, for the designer - это здание - большой успех, а точнее, триумф архитектора

4. в *грам. знач. междометия* ещё бы!; ещё как!; конечно!, разумеется!

have you been here before? - Rather! - вы здесь раньше бывали? - Ещё бы!

would you like to come? - Rather! - вы хотите прийти? - Конечно /Разумеется, что за вопрос!/

Rather! - нисколько!, вовсе нет!, отнюдь!

◇ the rather - тем более что ..., тем скорее

rather

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

ra·ther *adverb* *exclamation* *BrE* [ˈrɑːðə(ɹ)] ^ˈ *NAmE* [ˈræðər] ^ˈ*adverb*

1. used to mean 'fairly' or 'to some degree', often when you are expressing slight criticism, disappointment or surprise

- The instructions were rather complicated.
- She fell and hurt her leg rather badly.
- I didn't fail the exam; in fact I did rather well!
- It was a rather difficult question.
- It was **rather a** difficult question.
- He looks rather like his father.
- The patient has responded to the treatment rather better than expected.
- He was conscious that he was talking **rather too** much.

2. used with a verb to make a statement sound less strong

- I rather suspect we're making a mistake.
- We were rather hoping you'd be able to do it by Friday.

3. used to correct sth you have said, or to give more accurate information

- She worked as a secretary, or rather, a personal assistant.
- In the end he had to walk— or rather run— to the office.

4. used to introduce an idea that is different or opposite to the idea that you have stated previously

- The walls were not white, but rather a sort of dirty grey.

Word Origin:

Old English hrathor 'earlier, sooner', comparative of hræthe 'without delay', from hræth 'prompt', of Germanic origin.

Thesaurus:

rather adv. (especially BrE)

- It's rather a difficult question.

fairly • • **reasonably** • • **moderately** • • **somewhat** • |especially BrE **quite** • |AmE informal, BrE **pretty** •

rather/quite **a/an...**

rather/fairly/reasonably/moderately/somewhat/quite/pretty **successful/high**

rather/fairly/reasonably/moderately/quite/pretty **well**

rather/fairly/reasonably/quite/pretty **good/large/common/pleased/confident/soon/quickly/easily**

I rather/quite **like** sth

Language Bank:

i.e.

Explaining what you mean

- Some poems are mnemonics, **i.e.** ▪ they are designed to help you remember something.
- Some poems are mnemonics, **that is to say** ▪, they are designed to help you remember something.
- Mnemonic poems, **that is** ▪ poems designed to help you remember something, are an excellent way to learn lists.
- A limerick's rhyme scheme is A–A–B–B–A. **In other words** ▪, the first, second, and fifth lines all rhyme with one another, while the third and fourth lines have their own rhyme.
- In this exercise the reader is encouraged to work out the meaning, **or rather** ▪ the range of meanings, of the poem.
- This is a poem about death, **or, more precisely** ▪, dying.
- He says his poems deal with 'the big issues', **by which he means** ▪ love, loss, grief and death.

Language Bank at [↑about](#)

Which Word?:

quite / fairly / rather / pretty

Look at these examples:

- The exam was fairly difficult.
- The exam was quite difficult.
- The exam was rather difficult.

Quite is a little stronger than **fairly**, and **rather** is a little stronger than **quite**. **Rather** is not very common in *NAmE*; **pretty** has the same meaning and this is used in informal *BrE* too: ▪ The exam was pretty difficult.

In *BrE* **quite** has two meanings: ▪ I feel quite tired today (= fairly tired). With adjectives that describe an extreme state ('non-gradable' adjectives) it means 'completely' or 'absolutely': ▪ I feel quite exhausted. With some adjectives, both meanings are possible. The speaker's stress and intonation will show you which is meant: ▪ Your essay is 'quite good (= fairly good — it could be better); ▪ Your essay is quite 'good (= very good, especially when this is unexpected).

In *NAmE* **quite** usually means something like 'very', not 'fairly' or 'rather'. **Pretty** is used instead for this sense.

Example Bank:

- I didn't fail the exam; in fact I did rather well!
- I'm sorry, I've got rather a lot on my mind.
- It's a rather difficult question.
- Recently she'd been thinking about him rather too much.
- She looked rather well after her night in hospital.
- The rules are rather complicated.
- They'd had rather a lot to drink.

Idioms: [↑rather than](#) ▪ rather you/him than me ▪ [↑would rather ...](#)

exclamation also [ˌrɑːðə(r) ; *NAmE* [ˌrɑːðə]r (old-fashioned, *BrE*) used to agree with sb's suggestion

- 'How about a trip to the beach?' 'Rather!'

Word Origin:

[**rather**] Old English hrathor 'earlier, sooner', comparative of hræthe 'without delay', from hræth 'prompt', of Germanic origin.

rather

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

rather **S1 W1** /ˈrɑːðə(r) / *BrE* ▪ *AmE* ▪ *predeterminer, adverb*

[**Language:** Old English; **Origin:** hrathor 'more quickly']

1. fairly or to some degree:

- I was rather surprised to see him with his ex-wife.
- He was limping rather badly.
- My own position is rather different.
- Abigail's always been rather a difficult child. *British English*
- Isn't it rather late (=a little too late) to start changing all the arrangements?
- Actually I rather like the new style of architecture. *British English*

It was a nice house, but rather too small for a family of four. *British English*

The task proved to be rather more difficult than I had expected. *British English*

2. **would rather** used to say that you would prefer to do or have something:

I'd rather have a quiet night in front of the TV.

We could eat later if you would rather do that.

'I think you'd better ask her.' 'I'd rather not (=I do not want to).'

would rather ... than ...

I'd rather die than apologize to Helen.

I'd rather you didn't go out alone (=I do not want you to go).

3. **rather than** instead of:

I think you'd call it a lecture rather than a talk.

Rather than go straight on to university why not get some work experience first?

Bryson decided to quit rather than accept the new rules.

4. **or rather** used before correcting something that you have said, or giving more specific information:

We all went in Vic's car, or rather his father's.

5. **not ... but rather ...** used to say that one thing is not true but a different thing is true:

The problem is not their lack of funding, but rather their lack of planning.

6. **rather you/him/her/them than me** *spoken* used to say that you are glad that you are not going to be doing something that someone else will be doing

7. **Rather!** *British English spoken old-fashioned* used to agree with someone

• • •

THESAURUS

- **rather/quite** *especially British English* more than a little, but less than very. British people often use these words before adjectives in conversation. In many cases they do not intend to change the meaning – it is just something that people say: She seemed rather unhappy. | It's rather a difficult question. | It's getting quite late. | Malaria is rather common in this area.
- **fairly** *rather*. **Fairly** is used in both British and American English: The test was fairly easy. | It's a fairly long way to the next town.
- **pretty** *spoken* *rather*. **Pretty** is more informal than the other words and is used in spoken English: Her French is pretty good. | We're in a pretty strong position.
- **reasonably** to a satisfactory level or degree: He plays reasonably well. | Let's just say that I am reasonably confident we'll win.
- **moderately** *formal* more than a little, but not very: Her family was moderately wealthy. | The food was moderately good, but not as good as the food in the other restaurants. | Use a moderately high heat. | a moderately difficult climb
- **somewhat** *formal* fairly or to a small degree. **Somewhat** is used especially when talking about the size or degree of something. It is often used in comparatives: The celebrations were somewhat larger than last year's. | He looked somewhat irritated. | a somewhat surprising decision

rather

Freakuency Pack

12500 **205**^{MCW}

15000 **458**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** **RATHER** 106268

rather 106268

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

26959 **935**⁴³²⁸³ *ii21*

19780 **1374**³⁰⁶¹⁴ *rr*

12775 **2347**¹⁸¹⁵⁵ *rg*

11849 **2967**¹⁴¹⁸⁸ *cs21*

14 **213763**¹⁴ *jj*

14 **214126**¹⁴ *nn1*