Rather, Would Rather, Rather Than Exercise

This grammar exercise tests your ability to use rather, would rather and rather than.

1. He is .................................................
   
   rather fool
   a rather fool
   rather a fool

2. That was ...........................................
   
   rather a good idea
   a rather good idea
   Either could be used here

3. We ......................... hoping he would leave soon.
   
   rather were
   were rather
   Either could be used here

4. I would prefer to come on Tuesday .................
   on Thursday.
   
   rather
   would rather
rather than

5. I decided to phone rather than ..................

write
writing
Either could be used here

6. Would you rather ...................... here or go home.

stay
to stay
staying

7. I would rather ......................... something to eat.

have
to have
having

8. I would rather you ...................... me alone.

leave
left
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leaving
had left

9. 'Should I turn the heating on?' 'I would rather you .....................

not
didn't
hadn't

10. It is important to find new markets rather than ..................... new people.

hire
hiring
Either could be used here

11. Rather than ..................... the last of my cash for a meal, I chose to stay hungry.

Please select 2 correct answers

spending
spend
to spend
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12. I would rather you ............. that. You upset her.

didn't say
hadn't said
Either could be used here

Answers

1. He is rather a fool.
2. That was a rather good idea / rather a good idea.
3. We were rather hoping he would leave soon.
4. I would prefer to come on Tuesday rather than on Thursday.
5. I decided to phone rather than write / writing.
6. Would you rather stay here or go home?
7. I would rather have something to eat.
8. I would rather you left me alone.
9. ‘Should I turn the heating on?’ ‘I would rather you didn’t.
10. It is important to find new markets rather than hire / hiring new people.
11. Rather than spending / spend the last of my cash for a meal, I chose to stay hungry.
12. I would rather you hadn’t said that. You upset her.