

HAD BETTER

## **had better ('d better)**

We use **had better** to give **strong advice** or to tell someone (including ourselves) what to do.

- *I'd better go home. It's getting late.*
- *You'd better tell mum what happened before she finds out.*

**Had better** often implies that something negative will happen if something is not done and it often sounds like a threat or a warning.

- *He'd better give me my money back or he'll be in trouble.*
- *You'd better behave yourself if you don't want me to get really angry.*

## Form

The word **had** is a past verb form, but the expression **had better** is only used to talk about the **immediate future**.

- *You'd **better** call me soon. I'll be worried.*

After **had better** we need to use **infinitive** without **to**.

- *I'd **better** take a look. (NOT I'd better ~~to~~take)*

**Had better not** (**'d better not**) is the negative form of **had better**.

- *You'd **better not** say a word about this.*
- *I'd **better not** forget.*

In spoken English we normally use the short form **'d better**. And in informal speech, people sometimes say just **better** (without **had**).

- *You **better** go home.*
- *I **better** get it right this time.*

## had better vs should

We often use **should** to give **advice**, to say that something is a good thing. And we use **had better** to express **urgent advice** or a **warning**, with bad consequences if you don't follow it.

- *You **should** try the cake. It's delicious.*
- *He'd **better** hurry up or he'll miss the cake.*