

Intermediate 1
Unit 1 Grammar
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Had better

"Had better" is a phrase used to give advice or make recommendations, suggesting that there may be negative consequences if the advice is not followed. It's quite firm and often carries a sense of urgency. Here's how to use it:

Structure

Subject + "had better" (not) + Base Form of the Verb

Giving Advice or Recommendation:

You had better finish your homework before dinner.
We had better leave now if we want to catch the bus.

Warning or Threat:

You had better not forget her birthday!
He had better be here on time, or he'll miss the meeting.

Usage Tips

Formality: "Had better" is stronger than "should" and is often used in spoken English. It's less formal than "ought to."

Negatives: For negative sentences, place "not" after "had better."
You had better not stay up too late.

Comparison with Other Modal Verbs

Should: Weaker than "had better," more polite.
You should finish your homework. (suggestion)

Must: Stronger than "had better," implies obligation.
You must finish your homework. (obligation)

“Had better” is stronger than “should”, but it is weaker than “must”.

Affirmative Statements	
I You He She It We They	had better run.

Negative Statements	
I You He She It We They	had better not walk slowly.

Yes/No Questions		
Had	I you he she it we they	better escape?

WH Questions		
What had	I you he she it we they	better do?

WH Questions		
Where had	I you he she it we they	better escape to?

Would rather

"Would rather" is used to express a preference for one thing over another. It indicates that someone would prefer to do one thing instead of another. Here's how to use it:

Structure

Affirmative:

Subject + would rather + Base Form of the Verb

Examples:

I would rather stay home tonight.

Would you rather travel by plane or by train?

Comparative:

Subject + would rather + Base Form of the Verb + than + Base Form of the Verb

Examples:

She would rather read a book than watch TV.

I'd rather watch a movie than go to the park.

He would rather eat pizza than (eat) pasta.

Negative Form

Subject + would rather + not + Base Form of the Verb

Examples:

I would rather not go to the party.

I would rather not discuss this now.

"Would rather" is a great way to express your preferences in a polite and clear manner.

Affirmative Statements	
I You He She It We They	would rather run.

Negative Statements	
I You He She It We They	would rather not walk slowly.

Yes/No Questions		
Would	I you he she it we they	rather escape?

WH Questions		
What would	I you he she it we they	rather do?

WH Questions		
Where would	I you he she it we they	rather escape to?

Contractions:

_ 'd better = had better

- *I'd better invest my money wisely.*
- *He'd better drive carefully.*

_ 'd rather = would rather

- *I'd rather buy a big house.*
- *They'd rather not be lazy.*

Formulas:

had better do something
had better not do something

would rather do something
would rather not do something
would rather do X than do Y

Common Mistakes:

✗ I'd better to go home.

✓ I'd better go home.

✗ I'd rather to sleep.

✓ I'd rather sleep.

Source:

[Intermediate 1 \(anglophone.ir\)](http://anglophone.ir)