

Had Better

Point 1: The modals 'had better' have the same meaning as 'should' when used to give advice.

1. You had better be careful.
 1. You should be careful.
2. You had better slow down.
 1. You should slow down.

Point 2: The phrase 'had better' suggests that if the advice is not taken, there will be a negative consequence.

- You had better leave soon, or you might miss your bus.
- He had better call me, or I will get mad.
- They had better slow down, or they will get in an accident.
- You had better go home, or you might get even more sick.

Point 3: The word 'had' is usually contracted.

1. She'd better be careful.
2. He'd better not forget.
3. You'd better tell your mother.
4. We'd better get going.

Point 4: In naturally spoken English, the word 'had' or the contraction is sometimes not spoken.

1. I better go.
2. He better watch out!
3. You better call me.
4. She better be careful!

Point 5: The phrase is sometimes used as hypothetical advice using 'it would be' regarding a situation.

1. It would be better if you did not come.
2. It would be better to call him.
3. It'd be better for all of us.
4. It'd be better in the long run.

Point 6: The word 'best' is sometimes used instead of 'better' and the meaning is the same. It is more colloquial.

1. I'd better get going.
2. I'd best get going.

3. You'd better see a doctor.
4. You'd best see a doctor.

Had Better

Watch four videos using the phrase "**had better**" in conversation.

Conversation 1 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Wow. You sound terrible.

Woman: Yeah, I think I have the flu.

Man: Oh, well, you'**d better** go home and get some rest.

Woman: I will as soon as I finish this.

Man: No, no, no. You need to stop. It'**d be better** for all of us.

Woman: I guess you're right. I don't want you to get sick, too.

Conversation 2 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Woman: Where's Sally? I need her to sign this.

Man: I think she just left to go home.

Woman: Oh, no. Maybe I can catch her.

Man: Well, you'**d better** hurry.

Woman: Thanks. I'll try to catch her.

Man: Good luck.

Conversation 3 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Well, it's getting late. I'**d better** get going.

Woman: Okay. Thanks for stopping by.

Man: Oh, it was my pleasure. Thanks for inviting me.

Woman: Any time. So, how are you going home?

Man: I'm thinking of taking the expressway.

Woman: You'**d better** drive slow then. The fog is bad tonight.

Man: Thanks. Will do.

Conversation 4 | [PDF Worksheet](#)

Man: Oh, man, this pizza is great.

Woman: Yeah, it is. But how many slices have you had?

Man: I'm not sure. Maybe eight or 10 or 12.

Woman: Yeah, you'**d better** slow down. You'll get sick.

Man: Yeah, you're right. I'**d better** take it easy.

Woman: Yeah. And save some for me, will you?

Quiz

Gap Fill: Listen to the audio. Type in the correct word!

Conversation 1

Man: Wow. You **soundssound** terrible.

Woman: Yeah, I think I **hadhave** the flu.

Man: Oh, well, you'd better go home and **goget** some rest.

Woman: I will as soon as I finish **thatthis**.

Man: No, no, no. You need to stop. It'd be better for all of **isus**.

Woman: I guess you're right. I don't want you to get sick, **totoo**.

Conversation 2

Woman: Where's Sally? I need her to **signsing** this.

Man: I think she just **leftleave** to go home.

Woman: Oh, no. May **beMaybe** I can catch her.

Man: Well, you'd better **hurryhurried**.

Woman: Thanks. I'll try **toat** catch her.

Man: Good **lucklucky**.

Conversation 3

Man: Well, it's getting late. I'd better get **gonegoing**.

Woman: Okay. Thanks for stopping **bybye**.

Man: Oh, it was my pleasure. Thanks for **invitationinviting** me.

Woman: Any time. So, how are you **gogoing** home?

Man: I'm thinking of **takingtook** the expressway.

Woman: You'd better drive slow then. The fog is **badlybad** tonight.

Man: **ThanksThank**. Will do.

Conversation 4

Man: Oh, man, this pizza is **greatgreatest**.

Woman: Yeah, it is. But how many **slicesslice** have you had?

Man: I'm not sure. Maybe **ateeight** or 10 or 12.

Woman: Yeah, you'd better slow **downoff**. You'll get sick.

Man: Yeah, you're right. I'd better **maketake** it easy.

Woman: Yeah. And save some **fourfor** me, will you?

Corporate Terminology – Leadership

On Point

Meaning: To be excellent and precise.

Example: “The team’s presentation was on point, and they received high praise from the client.”

Put Someone on the Spot

Meaning: To ask someone a difficult question or to make them feel uncomfortable.

Example: “The interviewer put the candidate on the spot by asking about their weaknesses.”

The Powers That Be

Meaning: The people who have authority and control.

Example: “The decision was made by the powers that be, and there was nothing we could do about it.”

Lead by Example

This idiom can be used to encourage individuals to set a positive example for others to follow.

For example, a coach might say “If you want your team to work hard, you need to lead by example and work hard yourself”.