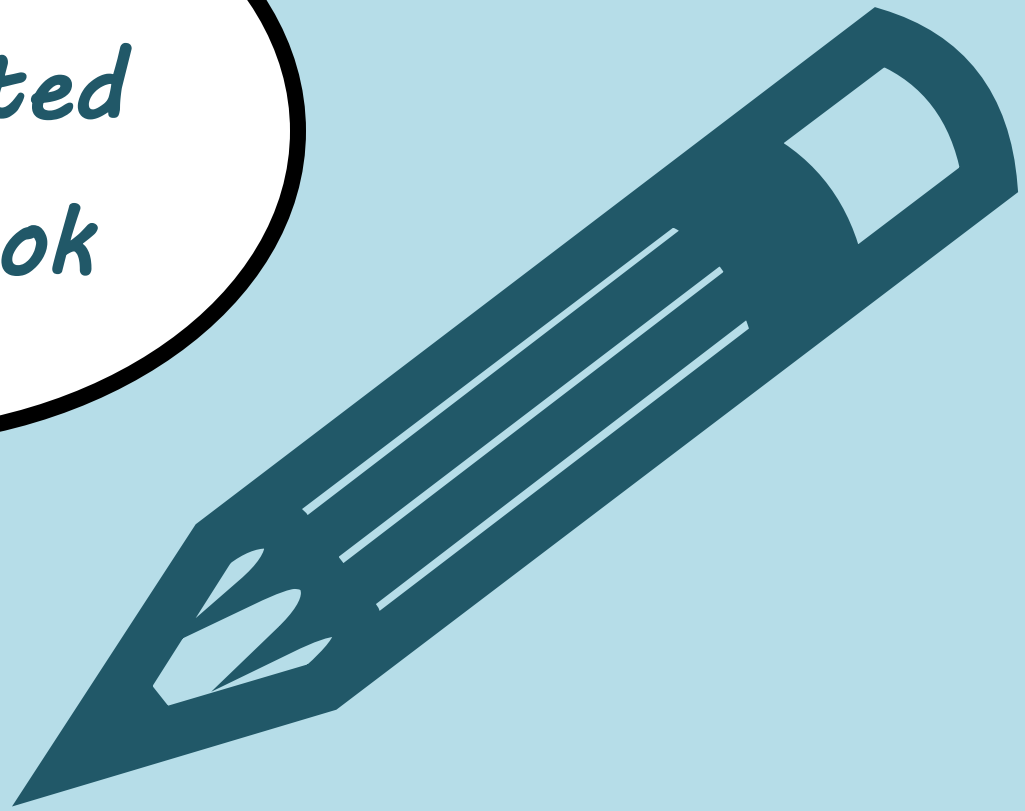


*Illustrated
Workbook*



Modal Verbs

Should, Ought to, and Had Better

Rules Examples

Stories Exercises Final Test

Sample Chapter

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Modal Verbs: Should, Ought to, and Had Better

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Unit C – Had Better

Lesson 1 – Showing Obligation with Had Better

The semi-modal verb **had better** has a similar meaning to **should** and **ought to**, but it is stronger.

If you say, “He had better arrive on time!” you mean that the best thing is for him to remember, because if he does not, it will be a problem. There will be negative consequences if he does not arrive on time (for example, you will be upset or he will be in trouble).

We only use **had better** in the simple present because it talks about the best thing to do in the present or in the near future. Remember that we don’t change the form of **had better**. We don’t add “-s,” “-ed,” or “-ing.”

For example:

- We **had better** hurry, or we will be late!
- I **had better** clean my room before Mom sees it.
- You **had better** study if you want to pass the test.
- They **had better** call if they will not attend the meeting.



The negative of **had better** is **had better not**. This means that it's a very bad idea to do something. If we say, "He **had better not spill** anything on the new carpet," it means that there will be negative consequences if he spills anything on the carpet.

For example:

- **Correct:** They **had better not call** after 9:00pm.
Incorrect: They had not better call after 9:00pm.
- **Correct:** She **had better not lose** her keys!
Incorrect: She not had better lose her keys!

Here are some more examples:

- We **had better not miss** our flight!
- My boss **had better not give** me any more work today.
- The cat **had better not sleep** on my clean clothes!
- I **had better not forget** my camera when I go on vacation.



✍ Quick Exercise 7

Write 3 things you had better do and 3 things you had better not do.

For example: I had better do my homework. I had better not miss class.



Exercise 7

A. Rewrite the following sentences with “had better” or “had better not.”

1. Justin really should remember to take his coat.

2. We really ought to replace the broken window.

3. It will be terrible if we miss Felicity’s concert.

4. It will be really bad if they leave their passports at home!

5. George really should prepare the food before the guests arrive.

Exercise 8

A. Look at the pictures and descriptions. Say what each person had better do.

1. The team needs her support! She really should cheer very loud.

She _____



2. He has a very busy day tomorrow. He really ought to sleep well tonight.

He _____



3. There is a lot of work to do! She really should start working early in the morning.

She _____



B. Look at the pictures and descriptions. Say what we had better not do.

1. The sign says to go right. It is a really bad idea to go left.

We _____



2. It's almost time for our appointment. We really should not arrive late.

We _____



3. The river is beautiful, but it looks dangerous! It is a bad idea to swim there.

We _____



4. That cake is so big! It's a bad idea to eat the whole thing.

We _____



Exercise 9 – Role Play

A. Choose one of the pictures below. Read the sentences about the person in the picture out loud to your partner. Your partner will give you advice using “had better.” Then you will switch roles.

For example:

Partner A: I will be in trouble if I don't finish my homework.

Partner B: Well, then you had better finish it!

Partner A

I will be in trouble if:

- I let the fire die
- I lose the map
- I burn the food
- I don't clean the campsite
- I don't pick up all the trash
- I don't cook dinner for the other scouts



Partner B

I will be in trouble if:

- I hurt myself
- I lose control of the ball
- I let the other team take the ball
- I don't practice
- I don't pay attention to my teammates
- I don't kick the ball hard



Story 3 - Had Better

Oscar and Rose are very excited for Christmas and opening their presents. They want to help get ready.

“The star is missing!” says Oscar. “We **had better** put it on top of the tree.”

“Yes,” Rose agrees, “and we **had better** make some snacks for Santa Claus in case he’s hungry after delivering all those presents!”

“We **had better** be very good today. If not, we won’t get good presents!” says Oscar, sounding a little worried.

“Yes. We **had better** eat all our vegetables today!” agrees Rose.

“Definitely. We are going to behave so well! Oh, Daddy needs to clean the garage today. We **had better** help him!” Oscar says.

“That’s a good idea,” replies Rose. “We’ll help Mommy with dinner, too.”

“Wow, being good is a lot of work!” says Oscar. “Mommy and Daddy **had better** notice it and tell Santa Claus!”



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