



Mini Lesson 050 - The Use of 'Had Better' for Strong Advice

Explanation:

"Had better" is used to give **strong advice** or **warnings** about actions that should be taken to avoid negative consequences. It expresses a sense of urgency or serious advice.

- **Form:**

Subject + had better + base verb

Example: *You had better finish your homework.* (Strong advice: If you don't finish it, something bad might happen.)

- **Negative Form:**

Subject + had better not + base verb

Example: *You had better not be late to the meeting.* (Strong advice to avoid being late.)

- **Contractions:**

In everyday speech, **had** is often contracted:

You'd better (instead of *You had better*)

You'd better not (instead of *You had better not*)





Exercises

Section 1: Complete the Sentences

Fill in the blanks with **"had better"** or **"had better not"**:

1. You _____ (finish) your work before the deadline.
2. They _____ (forget) their tickets for the concert.
3. She _____ (call) her mom soon, or she will worry.
4. We _____ (be) careful when crossing the street.
5. He _____ (be) late for the job interview.

Section 2: Rewrite the Sentences Using 'Had Better'

Rewrite the following sentences to include **"had better"**:

1. You should bring a jacket because it might rain.
→ _____.
2. They must study if they want to pass the test.
→ _____.
3. She needs to leave now if she doesn't want to miss the bus.
→ _____.
4. We shouldn't eat too much before dinner.
→ _____.
5. He ought to apologize if he doesn't want to get into trouble.
→ _____.





Section 3: Choose the Correct Answer

Select the correct form of **"had better"** or **"had better not"**:

1. You _____ go to the doctor if you're feeling sick.
A. had better
B. had better not
2. They _____ be late for the movie; it's starting soon.
A. had better
B. had better not
3. We _____ tell her the truth before she finds out.
A. had better
B. had better not
4. She _____ forget her homework at home again.
A. had better
B. had better not
5. He _____ call me when he arrives.
A. had better
B. had better not

Section 4: Correct the Mistakes

Find and correct the mistakes in the following sentences:

1. You had better not to eat too much cake.
2. They'd better to arrive on time for the meeting.
3. We better not forget to bring sunscreen.
4. He had better not to stay up too late tonight.
5. She had better calling her friend before it's too late.





Section 5: Situation-Based Questions

Give strong advice for the following situations using **"had better"** or **"had better not"**:

1. Your friend is about to go out in the rain without an umbrella.

→ You _____.

2. Your classmate hasn't started studying for an important test tomorrow.

→ You _____.

3. Your sister is thinking about buying an expensive dress she can't afford.

→ You _____.

4. Your coworker is thinking of skipping a meeting with the boss.

→ You _____.

5. A friend wants to stay up all night even though they have work early in the morning.

→ You _____.

Section 6: Multiple-Choice Questions

1. What does **"You had better finish your homework"** imply?

- A. It's okay if you don't finish it.
- B. It's very important that you finish it.
- C. It doesn't matter if you finish it.

2. Which of these sentences uses **"had better"** correctly?

- A. He had better not going to the party.
- B. She'd better to arrive early tomorrow.
- C. You'd better talk to your teacher about the problem.





3. What does **"They had better not be late"** suggest?

- A. Being late is okay.
- B. It's strongly advised not to be late.
- C. They shouldn't be early.

Section 7: Complete the Dialogue

Complete the dialogue with the correct form of **"had better"** or **"had better not"**.

A: *We're running late for the flight.*

B: *We _____ (hurry) or we'll miss it.*

A: *Do we need to bring anything else?*

B: *We _____ (not forget) our passports.*

A: *I'm worried about my luggage; it seems too heavy.*

B: *You _____ (check) it before we leave for the airport.*

A: *You're right. And what about food?*

B: *We _____ (grab) something to eat before boarding.*

Section 8: Write Your Own Sentences

Write sentences using **"had better"** or **"had better not"** based on the following prompts:

1. (finish / project on time)

→ _____.

2. (tell / truth / before it's too late)

→ _____.

3. (not forget / keys / when leaving the house)

→ _____.





4. (not stay up / too late)

→ _____.

5. (take / medicine / if feeling sick)

→ _____.

Answers

Section 1:

1. You had better finish your work before the deadline.
2. They had better not forget their tickets for the concert.
3. She had better call her mom soon, or she will worry.
4. We had better be careful when crossing the street.
5. He had better not be late for the job interview.

Section 2:

1. You had better bring a jacket because it might rain.
2. They had better study if they want to pass the test.
3. She had better leave now if she doesn't want to miss the bus.
4. We had better not eat too much before dinner.
5. He had better apologize if he doesn't want to get into trouble.

Section 3:

1. A
2. A
3. A
4. B
5. A

Section 4:





1. You had better not eat too much cake.
2. They'd better arrive on time for the meeting.
3. We had better not forget to bring sunscreen.
4. He had better not stay up too late tonight.
5. She had better call her friend before it's too late.

Section 5:

1. You had better take an umbrella.
2. You had better start studying for the test.
3. You had better not buy the dress.
4. You had better not skip the meeting with the boss.
5. You had better not stay up all night.

Section 6:

1. B
2. C
3. B

Section 7:

1. We'd better hurry or we'll miss it.
2. We'd better not forget our passports.
3. You'd better check it before we leave for the airport.
4. We'd better grab something to eat before boarding.

Section 8:

1. You'd better finish the project on time.
2. You'd better tell the truth before it's too late.
3. You'd better not forget your keys when leaving the house.
4. You'd better not stay up too late.
5. You'd better take your medicine if you're feeling sick.

