

Free B2-C1 Grammar Worksheet

Had Better, Would Rather and It's Time: Advice, Preferences and Timing

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Grammar Focus

Use **had better** for strong advice or warnings, **would rather** for preferences, and **it's time** for actions that are due or overdue.

Pay close attention to who controls the action and whether the preference refers to the present/future or the past.

Use	Pattern	Meaning / example
Strong advice / warning	had better + base verb	Use this when advice is strong and there may be a consequence. You'd better leave now; the last bus is at ten.
Negative advice	had better not + base verb	Use this to warn against an action. You'd better not park there.
Own present / future preference	would rather + base verb would rather not + base verb	Use this for your own preference now or in the future. I'd rather take the train tomorrow. I'd rather not drive.
Another person's present / future action	would rather + subject + past simple	The past form is hypothetical; it usually refers to now or the future. I'd rather she joined us next week.
Own past preference	would rather have + past participle	Use this when you now prefer a different past action. I'd rather have ordered the vegetarian option.
Another person's past action	would rather + subject + past perfect	Use this when you wanted another person to act differently in the past. I'd rather you had waited for my reply.
Action due now	it's time + to + base verb it's time for + noun/pronoun + to + base verb	These are neutral ways to say an action should happen now. It's time to check in. It's time for Maya to call.
Action due / overdue	it's time / high time + subject + past simple	The past form refers to the present or future and often sounds more pressing. It's time we replaced the old printer. It's high time the airline explained the delays.

Point	Remember
Questions / alternatives	Ask Would you rather + base verb...? and compare with rather... than... : Would you rather cook at home or eat out? I'd rather email than call.
No to after the core forms	Use the base verb after had better and after would rather for your own present/future preference: You'd better leave, not <i>You'd better to leave</i> . I'd rather stay, not <i>I'd rather to stay</i> .
Past form, present/future meaning	After would rather + subject and it's time + subject , a past-simple form often describes a preferred or overdue action now or later: I'd rather you arrived later. It's time we headed home.
Strength	Had better is usually stronger than should. High time often suggests that something is already overdue.

2. Choose the Best Form

Choose the option that best fits the context. Some items test form; others test meaning or time reference.

No.	Context	Options
1	A driving instructor gives a strong warning: You ____ drive more slowly or you may lose control.	had better / would rather
2	Asked about my preference, I ____ stay in tonight.	had better / would rather
3	Your manager gives you a strong warning: You ____ be late; the interviewers will leave at 9:15.	had better not / would rather not
4	I'd rather you ____ me before you make the booking.	will ask / asked
5	Looking back, I'd rather ____ the cheaper supplier.	use / have used
6	Everyone is ready. It's time ____ the meeting.	to start / starting
7	The roof has leaked for months. It's high time the landlord ____ it.	will repair / repaired
8	Would you rather ____ now or wait until after lunch?	leave / leaving
9	I was worried all evening. I'd rather you ____ me that you'd be late.	had told / told
10	The taxi is here. It's time ____.	us to leave / for us to leave
11	We ____ the deadline seriously; there could be penalties.	would better take / had better take
12	I'd rather walk ____ take the crowded bus.	than / to

3. Match the Sentence to the Grammar Reason

Write the correct letter A-J beside each sentence. Two reasons are not used.

No.	Sentence	Answer	A-J	Grammar reason
1	You'd better save a copy before updating the software.		A	Use would rather have + past participle for the speaker's own preference about a past action.
2	I'd rather work from home tomorrow.		B	Use it's high time + subject + past simple to say that an action is overdue.
3	I'd rather you didn't mention the complaint until we know more.		C	Use would rather + base verb for the speaker's own present or future preference.
4	I'd rather have taken the earlier train.		D	Use it's time + to + base verb for a neutral statement that an action should happen now.
5	I'd rather the supplier had warned us about the delay.		E	Use had better not + base verb for strong negative advice or a warning.
6	It's time to review the figures.		F	Use had better + base verb for strong advice or a warning where consequences are possible.
7	It's high time the council fixed the crossing.		G	Use Would + subject + rather + base verb...? to ask about a preference between alternatives.
8	Would you rather meet online or in person?		H	Use would rather + subject + past simple for a preference about another person's present or future action.
			I	Use it's time for + noun/pronoun + to + base verb when the person who should act is named.
			J	Use would rather + subject + past perfect for a preference about another person's past action.

4. Correct the Mistakes

Each sentence contains one target grammar error. Write the complete corrected sentence.

No.	Incorrect sentence	Your correction
1	You'd better to check the address before leaving.	
2	I'd rather to wait until morning.	
3	I'd rather you will speak to her first.	
4	I'd rather have took the direct route.	
5	I'd rather they have told us before the cancellation became public.	
6	It's time we will leave.	
7	It's high time the company will update its security system.	
8	You'd better not to ignore that message.	

Teacher note: accept any grammatical correction that preserves the meaning and uses the target structure.

5. Complete the Sentences

Complete each sentence with the best expression from the box. Two expressions are not used.

**would rather you had emailed | had better call | would rather wait | for us to leave | had better not mention
would rather have booked | it's time to review | would rather you emailed | we reviewed | would rather they had checked**

No.	Sentence
1	The client is expecting an update today, so we ____ before lunch.
2	I'm not in a hurry. I ____ until tomorrow.
3	This information is confidential. You ____ it outside the team.
4	For future invoices, I ____ them directly to accounts.
5	The hotel cost far more than expected. I ____ earlier.
6	The analysts sent yesterday's report with several errors. I ____ the figures more carefully before sending it.
7	The taxi is waiting outside. It's time ____.
8	We've delayed this decision for months. It's high time ____ the policy.

6. Rewrite Using the Target Structure

Rewrite each sentence using the structure shown. Preserve the meaning.

No.	Original	Instruction	Your rewrite
1	Because the road is icy, it is important that you slow down.	Use had better .	
2	I prefer to eat somewhere quieter tonight.	Use would rather + base verb .	
3	Please send me the draft tomorrow, not today; that is my preference.	Use would rather + subject + past simple .	
4	I booked the late flight, but now I think the earlier one would have been better.	Use would rather have + past participle .	
5	You told me about the problem after the deadline; I wanted to know before then.	Use would rather + subject + past perfect .	
6	We should begin the meeting now.	Use it's time + to + base verb .	
7	The council has delayed the repairs for a year; action is overdue.	Use it's high time + past simple .	
8	The children should go to bed now.	Use it's time for + noun + to + base verb .	

Teacher note: these are possible answers. Accept another grammatical rewrite that preserves the meaning and uses the required target form.

7. Meaning and Structure

Choose the category A-C that best matches each sentence.

Category	Meaning and structure
A	Strong advice / warning - had better / had better not
B	Preference - would rather forms for present/future or past preferences
C	Action due / overdue - it's time / high time structures

No.	Sentence	Answer
1	I'd rather not discuss it until tomorrow.	
2	You'd better keep the receipt.	
3	It's high time we updated the website.	
4	I'd rather you had called before coming over.	
5	It's time for the team to make a decision.	
6	You'd better not drive if you're exhausted.	
7	I'd rather have stayed an extra day.	
8	It's time we dealt with the complaint.	

8. Speaking Practice

Discuss the questions in complete sentences. Use the target grammar where appropriate.

No.	Discussion question
1	Give one situation where had better is more appropriate than should . Make a sentence and explain the possible consequence.
2	Would you rather work earlier and finish earlier, or start later and finish later? Why?
3	At work or in study, what would you rather someone else did differently for the rest of this week ? Use would rather + subject + past simple .
4	Think of a past decision you would rather have made differently. What would you rather have done?
5	Think of a past situation where you would rather another person had acted differently. Make a sentence with past perfect .
6	What is something it is time for you to do this month? Use It's time for me to...
7	What is something in your workplace, neighbourhood or city that it is high time someone changed?
8	Explain the difference in tone between: It's time to leave. / It's time we left. / It's high time we left.

Write one original sentence for each instruction.

10. Integrated Grammar Production

1. **had better or had better not**
2. **would rather + base verb**
3. **would rather + subject + past simple**
4. **would rather have + past participle**
5. **would rather + subject + past perfect**
6. **it's time / high time + subject + past simple**

11. Error-Checking Challenge

The paragraph contains exactly seven target grammar errors. Find and correct all seven.

At work we have delayed a software change for months, and it's high time we will make a decision. The current system is unstable, so we'd better to replace it soon. I'd rather to test the new version for another week, but my manager wants to launch on Friday. I'd rather she will wait until the security review is complete. Last month we rushed a similar update, and I'd rather have chose a slower rollout. The supplier also changed the schedule without telling us; I'd rather they have told us earlier. If we proceed this week, we'd better not to skip the backup stage.

Your corrections:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Teacher note: accept any grammatical correction that preserves the meaning and uses the target grammar.

12. Useful Reminders

Point	Remember
Had better	Use had better + base verb for strong advice or warning. It is not a past tense: You'd better leave now.
Negative advice	Use had better not + base verb : You'd better not drive if you're exhausted.
Own preference	Use would rather + base verb for your own present/future preference; use would rather have + past participle for a different past preference.
Another person's action	Use would rather + subject + past simple for a present/future action, and past perfect for a past action.
Time	Use it's time to... or it's time for someone to... neutrally. Use it's time / high time + subject + past simple when the action is due or overdue.
Past form	After would rather + subject and it's time + subject , the past-simple form can refer to now or the future.
Alternatives	Ask Would you rather...? and compare with rather... than....
No to	Do not put to after had better or after would rather for your own present/future preference.

Answer Key

Section 2: Choose the Best Form

No.	Answer	No.	Answer	No.	Answer
1	had better	5	have used	9	had told
2	would rather	6	to start	10	for us to leave
3	had better not	7	repaired	11	had better take
4	asked	8	leave	12	than

Section 3: Match the Sentence to the Grammar Reason

1	F	2	C	3	H	4	A
5	J	6	D	7	B	8	G

Unused reasons: E and I.

Section 4: Correct the Mistakes

No.	Corrected sentence
1	You'd better check the address before leaving.
2	I'd rather wait until morning.
3	I'd rather you spoke to her first.
4	I'd rather have taken the direct route.
5	I'd rather they had told us before the cancellation became public.
6	It's time we left.
7	It's high time the company updated its security system.
8	You'd better not ignore that message.

Teacher note: accept any grammatical correction that preserves the meaning and uses the target structure.

Answer Key: Continued

Section 5: Complete the Sentences

No.	Answer
1	had better call
2	would rather wait
3	had better not mention
4	would rather you emailed
5	would rather have booked
6	would rather they had checked
7	for us to leave
8	we reviewed

Unused expressions: would rather you had emailed; it's time to review.

Section 6: Rewrite Using the Target Structure

No.	Possible answer
1	You'd better slow down because the road is icy.
2	I'd rather eat somewhere quieter tonight.
3	I'd rather you sent me the draft tomorrow than today.
4	I'd rather have booked the earlier flight.
5	I'd rather you had told me before the deadline.
6	It's time to begin the meeting.
7	It's high time the council carried out the repairs.
8	It's time for the children to go to bed.

Teacher note: accept another grammatical rewrite that preserves the meaning and uses the required target form.

Answer Key: Continued

Section 7: Meaning and Structure

No.	Answer
1	B
2	A
3	C
4	B
5	C
6	A
7	B
8	C

Section 8: Speaking Practice

Item	Model / note
Question 1 model	Had better is stronger than should and often implies a real consequence if the advice is ignored. Example: You'd better leave now or you'll miss the last train.
Question 8 model	It's time to leave is relatively neutral. It's time we left can sound more personal or pressing. It's high time we left strongly suggests that leaving is already overdue.
Teacher note	Other speaking questions are open. Accept grammatical, relevant answers using the requested target form where specified.

Section 9: Write Your Own Sentences

Teacher note: accept any grammatical sentence that follows the stated structure and meaning.

Answer Key: Continued

Section 10: Integrated Grammar Production

No single model is required. Accept any coherent paragraph that:

- is approximately 100-130 words;
- contains all six required target structures;
- underlines the six target structures;
- uses the correct time reference for present/future and past preferences;
- uses had better as strong advice or warning, not as a past tense;
- uses would rather + subject + past simple for another person's present/future action and past perfect for a past action.

Section 11: Error-Checking Challenge

No.	Incorrect form	Correct form
1	we will make	we made
2	we'd better to replace	we'd better replace
3	I'd rather to test	I'd rather test
4	I'd rather she will wait	I'd rather she waited
5	I'd rather have chose	I'd rather have chosen
6	I'd rather they have told	I'd rather they had told
7	we'd better not to skip	we'd better not skip

Teacher note: accept any grammatical correction that preserves the meaning and uses the target grammar.

Section 12: Useful Reminders

No answers required.