



ENGLISH GRAMMAR 2 INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

Unit 35 – I'd better ... it's time ...

tienganh



I'd better ... it's time ...

HAD BETTER

A

❖ had better (I'd better / you'd better etc.)

I'd better do something = it is advisable to do it.

If I don't do it, there will be a problem or a danger

- EX1: I have to meet Amy in ten minutes. I'd better go now or I'll be late.
- EX2: "Shall I take an umbrella?" "Yes, you'd better. It might rain."
- EX3: We'd better stop for petrol soon. The tank is almost empty.

❖ The negative is **I'd better not** (= I had better not):

- EX4: A: That jacket looks good on you. Are you going to buy it?
B: I'd better not. It's very expensive.
- EX5: You don't look very well. You'd better not go out tonight.

❖ Remember that **"had"** is normally past, but we use **had better** for the present or future, not past.

- EX6: I'd better go now / tomorrow.

I'd better ... it's time ...

HAD BETTER v.s SHOULD

B

HAD BETTER AND SHOULD

- ❖ **Had better** is similar to **should** but not exactly the same. We use had better only for **a specific situation**, not for things in general. You can use **should** in all types of situations to give an opinion or give advice:
 - EX7: It's late. You'd **better go**. or You **should go**. (*a specific situation*)
 - EX8: You're always at home. You **should go** out more often. (*in general – not “had better go”*)
- ❖ Also, with **had better**, there is always a danger or a problem if you don't follow the advice. Should means only “it is a good thing to do”. Compare:
 - EX9: It's a great film. You **should go** and see it. (*but no problem if you don't*)
 - EX10: The film starts at 8.30. You'd **better go** now or you'll miss the beginning.

I'd better ... it's time ...

IT'S (HIGH) TIME

C

IT'S (HIGH) TIME ...

❖ You can say **It's time (for somebody) to ...** :

- EX11: **It's time to go** home. / **It's time** for us **to go** home.

❖ But you can also say:

- EX12: It's late. **It's time** we **went** home.

When we use **it's time + past ('it's time we went' etc.)**, the meaning is present, not past:

- EX13: **It's time** they **were** here. Why are they so late? (*not It's time they are here*)

It's time somebody did something = they should have already done it or started it.

❖ We often use this structure to criticize or to complain:

- EX14: This situation can't continue. **It's time** you **did** something about it.
- EX15: He's very selfish. **It's time** he **realized** that he isn't the most important person in the world.

❖ You can also say **It's about time ...** :

- EX16: Jack is a great talker, but **it's about time** he **did** something instead of just talking.

I'd better ... it's time ...

BÀI TẬP NHANH

Select the option which best completes the sentences below:

It's 10 o'clock. It's after the children's bedtime.

You think they should be in bed. You say:

It's time they _____ in bed.

A. are

B. be

C. were

D. should be

I'd better ... it's time ...

TÓM TẮT

1. **Had better (= 'd better)** và **Had better not** là cấu trúc câu khuyên ai đó nên làm gì. So với **should**, **should** thường được dùng để đưa ra những lời khuyên chung chung. **Had better** thường dùng cho những tình huống cụ thể, và thường có nghĩa nếu không làm theo, sẽ có những hậu quả gì đó - *The film starts at 8.30. You'd better go now or you'll miss the beginning.*
2. **It's time, it's high time, it's about time someone did something** chỉ việc một ai đó đã nên bắt đầu làm việc gì đó nhưng họ chưa làm, có hàm ý phê phán - *It's time they were here. Why are they so late?* Mặc dù ở thể quá khứ (chính xác hơn quá khứ bằng thái – past subjunctive,) nhưng câu có ý nghĩa hiện tại.