

Ought to *and* Had better

A modal auxiliary verb is used to modify the mood of a verb. Here is a list of the modal auxiliary verbs:

Can-Could	May-Might	Shall-Should	Will-Would	Must-Have to	Ought-Had better	Used to
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Ought to: “Ought to” is used to express the ideal (best) action. It is different from “should” in that it gives a sentence a more obligatory tone. The negative of ought is “ought not” or the contraction “oughtn’t”.

Example: I ought to become a doctor because my father was a doctor.

In this example “**ought to**” is used to express the ideal and somewhat obligatory action to become a doctor.

Directions: Make your own sentences using “**ought to**”.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Had better: “Had better” is used in the same way as “ought” (they are rough synonyms). The negative of had better is “**had better not**”.

Example: He had better wash his hands before he eats.

In this example “**had better**” is used to express the ideal and somewhat obligatory action to wash his hands before he eats.

Directions: Now make your own sentences using “**had better**”.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____

Directions: Circle the correct auxiliary modal verb in each sentence.

Example: You (had better / ought to, would) clean your room tonight.

- 1) I (had better / ought to, will) wash the dishes before mom gets home.
- 2) If she wants to, Hopi (had better / ought to, could) become a famous actor.
- 3) I can't decide if I (had better / ought to, should) go to the movie tonight. I guess I will, because I don't have anything else to do.
- 4) Jerry (had better / ought to, might) mow the lawn before the family picnic.
- 5) The firemen (would, ought to / had better) extinguish the fire quickly.
- 6) Drivers (had better / ought to, have to) stop at red lights.
- 7) Trees (had better / ought to, can) make light into food.
- 8) They (had better / ought to, may) eat a cookie.
- 9) The students (had better / ought to, could) finish their homework before class.
- 10) The war (had better / ought to, used to) end soon.