GRAMMAR: *should (n't), had better, ought to*

1 Complete the sentences with *should (n't), had better, ought to*.

1 You _____ get him a nice present this year!

2 You _____ give me a ring sometime if you want to.

3 You _____ join me if you don't want to break your promise.

2 Read the questions 1—6. Then match them to the correct answers a—f. Circle the correct word in each answer.

1 I've broken my friend's MP3 player.  What should I do?

2 I've got toothache.  What should I do?

3 I didn't do the test very well. What should I do?

4 I'd like to go climbing , but I've never done it before. What should I do?

5 I'm hungry.  Should I eat some chocolate?

6 I'm angry  with my brother. He said something I didn't like. What should I do?

7 This sweater  my sister gave me looks terrible. I don't like it at all. What should I do?

RULE: *Should, had better* and *ought to* are used to give (1) advice / information.

- *Should* and *ought to* mean more or less the same, but we usually don't use *ought to* in questions and negative statements.
- The meaning of *had better* is often a little stronger. The speaker wants to say that there are (2) *positive / negative* consequences if you ignore the advice.

These verbs (3) *do / don't* use an auxiliary verb in the negative: shouldn't, oughtn't to, had better not.

A You should/shouldn't eat it. Fruit is healthier.

B You should/shouldn't tell him. It's best to be honest with him.

C You'd better/better not return it to the shop. That would really hurt her feelings.

D You shouldn't/ought to go back and study everything again.

E You'd better/shouldn't get some training. It can be dangerous.

F You ought to /shouldn't see a dentist.

G You'd better/shouldn't say sorry the next time you meet your friend.

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