

# 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.