

## Unit 65

### Had better do something

### It's time someone did something

#### a Had better do something

The meaning of **had better** (**I'd better**) is similar to **should**. '**I'd better do something**' = I should do something or it is advisable for me to do something; if I don't do this, something bad might happen:

- I have to meet Tom in ten minutes. **I'd better** go now or I'll be late.
- 'Shall I take an umbrella?' 'Yes, you'd better. It might rain.'
- We've almost run out of petrol. **We'd better stop** at the next petrol station to fill up.

The negative form is **had better not** (**'d better not**):

The form is always '**had better**' (usually '**'d better**' in spoken English). We say **had** but the meaning is present or future, not past:

- **I'd better go** to the bank **this afternoon**.

Remember that **had better** is followed by the infinitive without **to**:

- It might rain. **We'd better take** an umbrella. (*not* 'better to take')

#### b It's time ...

You can say '**it's time** (for someone) **to do something**':

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

There is another structure. **It's time someone did something**:

- It's nearly midnight. **It's time we went** home.

We use the *past* (**went**) after **It's time someone ...**, but the meaning is present or future, not past:

- Why are you still in bed? **It's time you got up**. (*not* 'time you get up')

We use the structure **It's time someone did something** especially when we are complaining or criticising or when we think someone should have already done something:

- **It's time the children were** in bed. It's long after their bedtime.
- You've been wearing the same clothes for ages. **Isn't it time you bought** some new ones?
- I think **it's time the government did** something about pollution.

We also say || '**It's high time** || someone **did something**.'

This makes the complaint or criticism stronger:

- You're very selfish. **It's high time you realised** that you're not the most important person in the world.
- **It's about time Jack did** some work for his examinations.