Had better
from English Grammar Today
http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/had-better

Had better: form and meaning

• We use *had better* to refer to the present or the future, to talk about actions we think people should do or which are desirable in a specific situation. The verb form is always *had*, not *have*. We normally shorten it to ’d better in informal situations. It is followed by the infinitive without *to*:

  *It’s five o’clock. I’d better go now before the traffic gets too bad.*

  Not: I’d better to go now.

The democratic movement *had better* concentrate on the immediate issues of the economy and security. (more formal)
**Had better**

from English Grammar Today

http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/had-better

### Had better: form and meaning

- **Had better** is a strong expression. We use it if we think there will be negative results if someone does not do what is desired or suggested:

  *She’d better get here soon or she’ll miss the opening ceremony.*

### N.B. Spoken English:

- Sometimes people say *had best* instead of *had better*, especially in informal speaking. This sounds slightly less strong and less direct:

  *You’d best leave it till Monday. There’s no one in the office today.*
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Had better: negative and question forms

• The negative of had better is had better not (or ’d better not):
  I’d better not leave my bag there. Someone might steal it.
  You’d better not tell Elizabeth about the broken glass – she’ll go crazy!

• The question form of had better is made by inverting the subject and had. This means the same as should, but is more formal:
  Had I better speak to Joan first before I send this form off? What do you think?
  Had we better leave a note for the delivery guy to take the parcel next door?

• Negative questions with had better are more common than affirmative ones:
  Hadn’t we better ring the school and tell them Liam is sick?
  Hadn’t you better switch your computer off? It might overheat if you leave it on.
**Had better**

from English Grammar Today

http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/had-better

**Had better or be better, be best?**

- We use *had better* to give advice in a specific situation. We use the phrase *be better or be best* + to-infinitive for more general suggestions:

  *It’s always better to be safe than sorry.* (‘It’s better to be safe than sorry’ is a saying which means that you should be careful before taking any action.)

  *I think it would be best to speak to the people in the video shop to see what they recommend.*
Had better
from English Grammar Today
http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/had-better

**Had better or would rather, would prefer?**

- We don’t use *had better* when we talk about preferences. We use *would rather* or *would prefer*.

- Compare
  
  *I’d better get a taxi. The buses are so slow.*
  
  → It is a good idea, better, or advisable to get a taxi.

  *I’d rather get a taxi. I don’t like buses.*
  
  → I prefer to get a taxi.
**Had better**
from English Grammar Today
http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/had-better

**Had better: typical errors**

- We use *had better* to give specific advice, not to talk about obligations or requirements; instead, we use *have to*, *have got to* or *must*:

  You **have to** (or **must**) hold a full, valid driving licence to hire a car.

  Not: You’d better hold a full, valid driving licence to hire a car.
Had better
from English Grammar Today
http://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/had-better

Had better: typical errors

• We don’t use had better to talk about preferences; instead, we use would rather or would prefer:

They offered her a job in Warsaw, but she said she’d rather work in a smaller city. (or ... she’d prefer to work ...)

Not: ... she’d better work ...

• We don’t use had better to make ordinary suggestions or recommendations:

Auckland is a great place to visit. I’d recommend you take a boat trip across the bay and see some of the islands. Then you can find a nice restaurant for lunch. There are plenty of them.

Not: You’d better take a boat trip across the bay and see some of the islands. Then you’d better find a nice restaurant for lunch.
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above

1. Whoever did that must have been a very brave person.

Only..............................................................
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

1. Whoever did that must have been a very brave person.

Only

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKTFQ3-hL_E
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

1. Whoever did that must have been a very brave person.

Only... 

1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKTFQ3-hL_E
2. **Group discussion** → WHOMEVER vs WHOMEVER
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

1. Whoever did that must have been a very brave person.

1. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKTFQ3-hL_E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tKTFQ3-hL_E)
2. Group discussion
3. Common Errors in English Usage
Common Errors in English Usage

Paul Brians
Common Errors in English Usage
THIRD EDITION - REVISED AND EXPANDED
forward by "Grammar Girl" Mignon Fogarty
expresso

"When he gives you the right answer, he sends you off chuckling—a winning combination!"
—Josh Mies, Pulitzer Prize winner & former literary editor, LA Times

• Click here for the text-only version of this site (for people who want to read it were a book). If you want a fully formatted ebook version, there’s one available iBook version.
• Read an entry a day on the Common Errors in English Facebook page.
• Read the daily entry on Twitter.
• The blog for Common Errors in English Usage
• Common Errors in English Usage daily calendar—
• NEW: Common Errors in English Usage Podcast
• Preparing to review or recommend this site? Please read this first.
• Public presentations by Paul Brians
• Back to Common Errors home page.
• Paul Brians’ home page.

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
• “Whom” has been dying an agonizing death for decades [...].
• Many people never use the word in speech at all.
• However, in formal writing, critical readers still expect it to be used when appropriate.

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
The distinction between “who” and “whom” is basically simple: “who” is the subject form of this pronoun and “whom” is the object form. “Who was wearing that awful dress at the Academy Awards banquet?” is correct because “who” is the subject of the sentence. “The MC was so startled by the neckline that he forgot to whom he was supposed to give the Oscar” is correct because “whom” is the object of the preposition “to.” So far so good.

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
• Now consider this sort of question:

“Who are you staring at?”

Although strictly speaking the pronoun should be “whom,” nobody who wants to be taken seriously would use it in this case, though it is the object of the preposition “at.”

→ “Whom” is very rarely used even by careful speakers as the first word in a question, and many authorities have now conceded the point.

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
There is another sort of question in which “whom” appears later in the sentence: “I wonder whom he bribed to get the contract?” Here an old gender-biased but effective test for “whom” can be used. Try rewriting the sentence using “he” or “him.” Clearly “He bribed he” is incorrect; you would say “he bribed him.” Where “him” is the proper word in the paraphrased sentence, use “whom.”

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
Instances in which the direct object appears at the beginning of a sentence are tricky because we are used to having subjects in that position and are strongly tempted to use “who”: “Whomever Susan admired most was likely to get the job.” (Test: “She admired him.” Right?)

Where things get really messy is in statements in which the object or subject status of the pronoun is not immediately obvious. Example: “The police gave tickets to whoever had parked in front of the fire hydrant.” The object of the preposition “to” is the entire noun clause, “whoever had parked in front of the fire hydrant,” but “whoever” is the subject of that clause, the subject of the verb “had parked.” Here’s a case where the temptation to use “whomever” should be resisted.  

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
Confused? Just try the “he or him” test, and if it’s still not clear, go with “who.” You’ll bother fewer people and have a fair chance of being right.

http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
• For more on this, see:
  1. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q8ooKi6fktk

• For other errors in English:
  http://public.wsu.edu/~brians/errors/errors.html#w
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

3. “Why didn’t you invite us too?” she said reproachfully.

She said: “You might……………………………………………………..”
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above

3. “Why didn’t you invite us too?” she said reproachfully.

→ She said: “You might have invited us too!”
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above

3. “Why didn’t you invite us too?” she said reproachfully.

→ She said: “You might have invited us too!”
may/might + perfect infinitive

To say that it is possible that something happened or was true in the past, a special structure can be used: **may/might + perfect infinitive** (*have* + *past participle*).

‘Polly’s very late.’ ‘She **may have missed** her train.’

(= ‘It is **possible** that she missed . . .’)

‘What was that noise?’ ‘It **might have been** a cat.’
We can use the same structure (especially with *might*) to say that something was possible but did not happen.

You were stupid to try climbing up there. You *might have killed* yourself. If she hadn’t been so bad-tempered, I *might have married* her.
May is occasionally used in the same way in British English, but many people feel that this is incorrect.

You were stupid to try climbing up there. You may have killed yourself. May/might + perfect infinitive can also refer to the present or future (like present perfect and future perfect tenses).

I'll try phoning him, but he may have gone out by now.
By the end of this year I might have saved some money.
**may/might + perfect infinitive**

To say that it is possible that something happened or was true in the past, a special structure can be used: *may/might + perfect infinitive (have + past participle).*

‘Polly’s very late.’ ‘She *may have missed* her train.’

(= ‘It is *possible* that she missed . . . ’)

‘What was that noise?’ ‘It *might have been* a cat.’

We can use the same structure (especially with *might*) to say that something was possible but did not happen.

*You were stupid to try climbing up there. You *might have killed* yourself.*

*If she hadn’t been so bad-tempered, I *might have married* her.*

*May* is occasionally used in the same way in British English, but many people feel that this is incorrect.

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*May/might + perfect infinitive* can also refer to the present or future (like present perfect and future perfect tenses).

*I’ll try phoning him, but he *may have gone out* by now.*

*By the end of this year I *might have saved* some money.*
“Why didn’t you invite us too?” she said reproachfully.

→ She said: “You might have invited us too!”

(= ‘It is possible that she missed …’)
‘What was that noise?’ ‘It might have been a cat.’
We can use the same structure (especially with *might*) to say that something was possible but did not happen.

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If she hadn’t been so bad-tempered, I might have married her.
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You were stupid to try climbing up there. You may have killed yourself.
*May/might + perfect infinitive* can also refer to the present or future (like present perfect and future perfect tenses).

I’ll try phoning him, but he may have gone out by now.
By the end of this year I might have saved some money.
“Why didn’t you invite us too?” she said **reproachfully**.

→ She said: “You might have invited us too!”

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**may and might (7): might** (requests, suggestions and criticisms)

*Might* is often used in affirmative clauses to make requests and suggestions.

*You might* see if John’s free this evening.

*You might* try asking your uncle for a job.

The structure can be used to criticise. *Might have* + past participle is used to talk about the past.

*You might* ask before you borrow my car.

*She might have told* me she was going to stay out all night.

Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above

7. We’ll arrive soon – and then we’ll all be able to have a beer.

Once

...
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

7. We’ll arrive soon – and then we’ll all be able to have a beer.

\[\text{Once we arrive, we’ll all have/’ll all be able to have a beer.}\]
once (conjunction)

Once can be used as a conjunction, meaning ‘after’, ‘as soon as’. It often suggests that something is finished or completed, and is most often used with a perfect tense.

Once you’ve passed your test I’ll let you drive my car.
I’d like to go for a walk once the rain’s stopped.
Once he had found somewhere to live he started looking for work.
Once you know how to ride a bike you never forget it.

Note that we do not use that after once (NOT...once that the rain’s stopped).

We use the present simple to refer to the future, not will, in *adverbial clauses* introduced by *time conjunctions* such as *after, before, when, and until*:

- *After* you go another 50 metres, you'll see a path to your left.
- *When* you see Dennis, tell him he still owes me some money.
- *Wait here until I call you.*

and in *conditional clauses* with *if, unless, in case, and provided*:

- Let me know *if* he says anything interesting.
- *Provided* the right software is available, I should be able to solve the problem.
- I'll bring a compass *in case* we get lost.
Attention ! N’oubliez pas que l’on utilise le simple present dans une subordonnée de temps introduite par *when, as soon as*, etc quand la phrase principale est au futur (voir 3.1.) : Exemple: *When I AM 18* (quand j’aurai 18 ans), I’ll buy a new car.
• Attention ! Dans une subordonnée de temps introduite par \textit{when, once, as soon as, etc, etc}, on utilise le present perfect et non le future perfect. Exemple: \textit{Let us know when you have finished} (traduit en français par ‘Préviens-nous quand tu auras terminé’)
http://sites.uclouvain.be/gramlink/

Le site « Gramlink » vous propose une grammaire de remédiation « en ligne » de l'allemand, de l'anglais et du néerlandais. Il est spécifiquement destiné à des apprenants francophones.

Ce projet a obtenu le label « Projet de développement pédagogique de l'UCL ». Il est le résultat d'une collaboration entre des enseignants du secondaire et de l'UCL (Faculté de Philosophie et Lettres, et Institut des Langues Vivantes).
“When I am President I’m sending All Mexicans Back to Mexico”
When I am president, I will work consistently every single day to keep this country safe, not call Edward Snowden, as you did, a great public servant. Edward Snowden is a traitor. And if I am president and we get our hands on him, he is standing trial for treason.
‘I will reveal the truth about UFOs **when I am President**’

Read more: [http://metro.co.uk/2016/01/04/hillary-clinton-i-will-reveal-the-truth-about-ufos-when-i-am-president-5599009/#ixzz41SHGv05H](http://metro.co.uk/2016/01/04/hillary-clinton-i-will-reveal-the-truth-about-ufos-when-i-am-president-5599009/#ixzz41SHGv05H)
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

9. It’s a great pity you wrote that letter.
   
   I wish.................................................................
Finish each of the incomplete sentences in such a way that it has the same meaning as the sentence above.

9. It’s a great pity you wrote that letter.
   → I wish you hadn’t written that letter.
9. It’s a great pity you wrote that letter.

I wish you hadn’t written that letter.
wish + that-clause: meaning

We can also use wish with a that-clause (that can be dropped in an informal style). In this case, wish does not mean ‘want’ – it expresses regret that things are not different, and refers to situations that are unreal, impossible or unlikely. Tenses are similar to those used with if (see below).

I wish (that) I was better looking.  Don’t you wish (that) you could fly?
We all wish (that) the snow would stay forever.

Wish + that-clause is not generally used for wishes about things that seem possible in the future. We often use hope in this sense (see 252).

I hope you pass your exams.  (NOT I wish you would pass your exams.)
I hope you feel better tomorrow.  (NOT I wish you felt better tomorrow.)
wish + that-clause: tenses

In a that-clause after wish, we generally use the same tenses as we would use, for instance, after ‘It would be nice if . . . ’ (see 260). Past tenses are used with a present or future meaning.

   I wish I spoke French. (= It would be nice if I spoke French.)
   I wish I had a yacht.     I wish tomorrow was Sunday.
   All the staff wish you weren’t leaving so soon.
   Do you ever wish you lived somewhere else?

Many people use were instead of was in this structure, especially in a formal style.

   I wish that I were better looking.

Past perfect tenses are used for wishes about the past.

   I wish you hadn’t said that. (= It would be nice if you hadn’t said that.)
   Now she wishes she had gone to university.

In informal speech, sentences like I wish you’d have seen it sometimes occur. For similar structures with if, see 261.9.
wish...would

Would is very common in *that*-clauses after *wish* (more common than it is in *if*-clauses). *Would* is used as a ‘softened’ equivalent of *will*, referring to people’s willingness, unwillingness, insistence or refusal to do things (see 604.2).

Everybody wishes you *would* come. (= Why don’t you come?)
I wish you *would* stop smoking. (= Why don’t you stop smoking?)

Wish...would usually express dissatisfaction, impatience or irritation because something shouldn’t be done or something or *won’t do something.*

I wish she *would* come.
I wish you *would* stop smoking that cigarette.
I wish the postman *would* come sooner.

Sometimes we talk about things we would be willing or unwilling, or could insist or refuse to do.*

I wish it *would* stop raining. (= Why isn’t it raining?)
Don’t you wish that this month would last for ever? (see 604.2)
Wish...would sometimes be an order or a criticism. Compare:

- I wish you *wouldn’t* drive so fast. (Similar to Please *don’t* drive so fast.)
  I wish you *didn’t* drive so fast. (More like I’m sorry you drive so fast.)
- I wish you *wouldn’t* work on Sundays. (= Why *don’t* you stop?)
  I wish you *didn’t* work on Sundays. (= It’s a pity.)
wish . . . would

Would is very common in that-clauses after wish (more common than it is in if-clauses). Would is used as a ‘softened’ equivalent of will, referring to people’s willingness, unwillingness, insistence or refusal to do things (see 604.2).

Everybody wishes you would go home. (= Why won’t you go home?)
I wish you would stop smoking. (= Why won’t you stop smoking?)

Wish . . . would usually expresses regret, dissatisfaction, impatience or irritation because somebody will keep doing something or won’t do something.

I wish she would be quiet.
I wish you wouldn’t keep making that stupid noise.
I wish the postman would come soon.

Sometimes we talk as if things and situations could be willing or unwilling, or could insist or refuse to do things.

I wish it would stop raining. (It will keep on raining!)
Don’t you wish that this moment would last for ever?

Wish . . . would can be like an order or a critical request. Compare:
– I wish you wouldn’t drive so fast. (Similar to Please don’t drive so fast.)
  I wish you didn’t drive so fast. (More like I’m sorry you drive so fast.)
– I wish you wouldn’t work on Sundays. (= Why don’t you stop?)
  I wish you didn’t work on Sundays. (= It’s a pity.)
**would not used**

When we are not talking about willingness, unwillingness, insistence or refusal, *wish ... would* is not normally used.

*I wish today was Saturday.*

(Not *I wish today would be Saturday* – Nothing to do with willingness.)

*I wish I could manage to give up smoking.*

(Not *I wish I would give up smoking* – It is strange to wish for oneself to be willing.)

*I hope she doesn’t have an accident.*

(Not *I wish she wouldn’t have an accident* – Nothing to do with willingness.)

*I hope there’s a strike tomorrow.*

(Not *I wish there would be a strike tomorrow* – We can’t say that *there* is willing to strike.)