

Structures to remember

It's high time can be followed by a subject with a past tense. The meaning is present.

It's high time + past simple

It's high time you went to bed.

It's high time you started learning for tomorrow's test.

Would rather can be used to say that a person would prefer somebody (not) to do something. We use a special structure with a past tense:

I'd rather you went home now.

My wife would rather we didn't see each other any more.

I'd rather you hadn't done that. (= I wish you hadn't done that.)

Would rather means 'would prefer to', and is followed by the infinitive without to.

How about a drink? – I'd rather have something to eat.

I'd rather not go out tonight.

We use **had better** to give strong advice, or to tell people what to do (including ourselves). It refers to the immediate future, but the form is past.

You'd better turn that music down before your parents get angry.

You'd better not wake me up when you come in.

Hadn't we better tell him the truth?

When we say that we **prefer** one activity to another, two –ing forms can be used or a to-infinitive after *rather than*.

I prefer riding to walking.

I prefer riding rather than walk/walking.

Have something done can mean 'to cause something to be done by somebody else'. The past participle has a passive meaning.

I must have my watch repaired.

I'm going to have my hair cut this afternoon.

so as to (do sth) means 'with the intention of doing sth' (= in order to).

We went early so as to get good seats.