Ought to and Had better

A modal auxiliary verb is used to modify the mood of a verb. Here is a list of the modal auxiliary verbs:

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**Ought to:** “Ought to” is used to express the ideal (best) action. It is different from “should” in that it gives a sentence a more obligatory tone. The negative of ought is “ought not” or the contraction “oughtn’t”.

Example: I ought to become a doctor because my father was a doctor.

In this example “ought to” is used to express the ideal and somewhat obligatory action to become a doctor.

Directions: Make your own sentences using “ought to”.

1) _____________________________________________________________________
2) _____________________________________________________________________

**Had better:** “Had better” is used in the same way as “ought” (they are rough synonyms). The negative of had better is “had better not”.

Example: He had better wash his hands before he eats.

In this example “had better” is used to express the ideal and somewhat obligatory action to wash his hands before he eats.

Directions: Now make your own sentences using “had better”.

1) _____________________________________________________________________
2) _____________________________________________________________________
Directions: Circle the correct auxiliary modal verb in each sentence.

Example: You (had better / ought to, would) clean your room tonight.

1) I (had better / ought to, will) wash the dishes before mom gets home.

2) If she wants to, Hopi (had better / ought to, could) become a famous actor.

3) I can’t decide if I (had better / ought to, should) go to the movie tonight. I guess I will, because I don’t have anything else to do.

4) Jerry (had better / ought to, might) mow the lawn before the family picnic.

5) The firemen (would, ought to / had better) extinguish the fire quickly.

6) Drivers (had better / ought to, have to) stop at red lights.

7) Trees (had better / ought to, can) make light into food.

8) They (had better / ought to, may) eat a cookie.

9) The students (had better / ought to, could) finish their homework before class.

10) The war (had better / ought to, used to) end soon.