

Tóm lược (Summary)

Anna gets hit by **lightning** and, suddenly, can do amazing things. Or can she?

Anna bị sét đánh, và bỗng dưng, có thể làm nhiều điều đáng kinh ngạc. Mà có thật vậy không?

Hội thoại (Conversation)

ANNA: Hi! I see you like **superhero** culture. Me too.

ANNA: In fact, tonight I'm going to the big superhero **convention**. Are you going?

YOUNG MAN: Um, I don't know.

ANNA: Well, you'd better **decide** soon. Last year, it sold out.

ANNA: So, since we're talking about superheroes: would you rather become a superhero by accident, like Spiderman, or be born a superhero, like Wonder Woman?

ANNA: Take your time. It's a big question. I thought about it for days
—

YOUNG MAN: Okay. If I had to choose, I'd rather be born a superhero.

ANNA: I'd rather become a superhero by an **unexpected** accident!

YOUNG MAN: Aren't all accidents unexpected?

ANNA: Well, yeah.

YOUNG MAN: What was that!? Are you okay?

ANNA: I'm better than okay. I feel **super**!

PROF. BOT: Oh No! Anna was just hit by lightning. She had better get help.

PROF. BOT: We use *had better* to give advice. It is very informal and stronger than *should* and *ought to*. For example, Anna says: "You'd better decide soon. Last year, it sold out."

PROF. BOT: When we use *had better*, we usually shorten the word *had* for personal pronouns.

PROF. BOT: We use *would rather* to say what we or someone else **prefers** to do or have. For example, the boy says: "Okay. If I had to choose, I'd rather be born a superhero.

PROF. BOT: With *would rather*, we also shorten the word *would* when used with personal pronouns. Keep watching and listen for *had better* and *would rather*.

YOUNG MAN: You'd better see a doctor.

ANNA: I've never felt better!

YOUNG MAN: You were just struck by **lightning**!! And what happened to your hair and your clothes?

ANNA: I don't know. Wait, I do know. This is my **super suit**! And this is my **origin story**.

YOUNG MAN: What are you talking about?

ANNA: An origin story tells the beginning of a superhero. You should know that.

YOUNG MAN: You're not **making** any **sense**, lady.

ANNA: I would rather be called Lightning Bolt Lady! It'll sound great in a **theme song**: Lightning Bolt Lady!

ANNA: Now, I need to find my superpowers --

YOUNG MAN: Um, I really think --

ANNA: Wait. Don't tell me. I'll read your mind. You are thinking you'd like to be my super helper.

YOUNG MAN: I was not thinking that.

ANNA: ... that you'd like to live in a treehouse.

YOUNG MAN: No.

ANNA: ... that you should eat more vegetables.

YOUNG MAN: Please, stop talking. You really should get some help.

ANNA: Mind reading is not my superpower. Maybe I can **become invisible**. I ... am ... invisible!

ANNA: You can't see me. Who am I? I'm not here. You can't see me.

YOUNG MAN: I can see you and so can everybody else.

ANNA: No **power** of invisibility. Maybe I can **create a force field**. I feel it working. Nothing can hurt –

(Someone throws a piece of paper and it hits her head.)

ANNA: Ow, that wasn't very nice. I see I have a lot of work to do. Well, goodbye, non-super person!

YOUNG MAN: Wait. I'd better go with you. You might get worse...if that's even possible.

ANNA: That's very nice of you, ordinary **human**. But I d rather go by myself. This is a **quest**.

YOUNG MAN: Every time you speak, I get more confused.

ANNA: A quest is a part of all superhero stories. You really need to work on your superhero studies. Now, **stand** back. I've never flown before.

YOUNG MAN: And you're not flying now.

ANNA: Flying is also not my superpower. That's too bad. It's going to be expensive to **Uber** everywhere. You know, I d rather walk. It's a nice day. Goodbye, non-super person.

YOUNG MAN: I am not talking to strangers again.

ANNOUNCER: Will Lightning Bolt Lady find her superpowers ... ever? Ouch! Did that **brick wall** hurt? Will the young man ever talk to a stranger again?

ANNOUNCER: Find out on the next episode of Let's Learn English!

Từ ngữ mới (New Words)

announcer – n. a person who gives information on television or radio

become – v. to begin to be or come to be something

brick – n. a small, hard block of baked clay that is used to build structures, such as houses, and sometimes to make streets

by accident – expression. in a way that is not planned or intended

create -- v. to make or produce something

convention – n. a large meeting of people who come to a place for usually several days to talk about their shared work or other interests

consequence – n. something that happens as a result of a particular action or set of conditions

decide – v. to make a choice about something

force field – n. an invisible or transparent shield of energy that some superheroes produce as a form of protection

human – n. a person

invisible – adj. impossible to see

lightning – n. the flashes of light that are produced in the sky during a storm

origin story – n. a story that informs the identity and motivations of heroes and villains in a comic book

prefer – v. to like someone or something better than someone or something else

power – n. physical force or strength

quest – n. a journey made in search of something

stand – v. to be in an upright position with all of your weight on your feet

superhero – n. a fictional character who has amazing powers, such as the ability to fly

superpower -- n. a special power that only superheroes have

super suit – n. the special clothing that a superhero wears

theme song - a piece of music from a television program or film that is remembered as the music that represents that program or film

Uber – v. to ride in an Uber car

unexpected – adj. not expected

urgency – n. something that is very important and needs immediate attention

wall – n. the structure that forms the side of a room or building

Thực hành (Practice)

Now, you try it!

First, read about *had better* and *would rather* below. Then, write one sentences using each.

- Use *had better* to give Anna advice about being a superhero
- Use *would rather* to tell us what superpowers you prefer

For example, "I would rather be able to fly than make a force field."

Had Better / Would Rather

We use the modal *had better* to give advice and *would rather* to tell someone about preferences.

When you see a pronoun with 'd after it, the 'd can be short for either *had* or *would*. For example, sometimes *I'd* means *I had*. Other times, *I'd* it means *I would*. Read more below.

Had Better

We use *had better* to give advice. It is stronger than *should* and *ought to*. It tells us that there may be **consequences** if a person doesn't take the advice.

Examples:

You had better decide soon. Last year, it sold out.
(Consequence: The conference might sell out.)

Anna had better be careful with her superpowers!
(Consequence: Someone could get hurt.)

The verb form is always *had* (not *have*) and we use a simple verb after *had better*. We also usually shorten *had* with personal pronouns:

I'd / you'd / he'd / she'd / we'd / they'd better...

subject	had better	simple verb
I	'd better	go
You	'd better	see

Sometimes, we use *had better* to show **urgency**. This is a more polite way to use it.

Examples:

I'd better go with you. You might get worse.
(Urgency: You might really need help.)

You'd better see a doctor.
(Urgency: You are hurt and must see a doctor.)

Would Rather

We use *would rather* to say what someone **prefers** to do or have. It is very common in spoken English.

We also shorten the word *would* with personal pronouns: I'd / you'd / he'd / she'd / we'd / they'd rather...

subject	would rather	simple verb
I	'd rather	be born
She	'd rather	become

We also use *would rather* to say what one person prefers some other person do. When we do this, the subject and object are different.

subject	would rather	object	past participle
The young man	would rather	Anna	left

When we compare two or more things in the same sentence, we use the word *than*.

first thing	than	second thing
I would rather be born a superhero	than	become one by accident.

For *questions*, notice that the subject comes between *would* and *rather*. Example: Would you rather be able to fly or make a force field?

Tự kiểm tra (Test Yourself)

How well do you know the grammar from Level 2? Test yourself!

In Lesson 24, you will see examples of grammar that you have learned in Level 2. Look for sentences in Lesson 24 with:

- Passive voice
- Prepositions
- Reflexive pronouns
- Any grammar from Lessons 1 - 23

Then, write those sentences in the Comments section. For example:

Passive Voice: *Aren't all accidents unexpected?*