

better²

S1 W1

adverb [comparative of well]

1 BETTER to a higher standard or quality

OPP

He can speak French a lot better than I can.

Your bike will run better if you oil it.

→ **fare better** AT FARE²

2 BETTER to a higher degree

SYN more

She knows this town better than you do.

I think I like the red one better.

*Potter is **better known** for his TV work.*

3 had better

a) ADVISE

used to give advice about what someone should do, or to say what you should do or need to do:

I'd better go and get ready.

I think you'd better ask Jo first.

*You **had better not** tell Oliver (= it is not a good idea) .*

b) THREATEN

used to threaten someone:

You'd better keep your mouth shut about this.

⚠ In speech, people usually shorten **had** to 'd, and may not pronounce it at all. But do not leave out **had** or 'd in writing: *You'd better (NOT You better) come here!*

4 do better BETTER

to perform better or reach a higher standard:

We did better than all the other schools.

You can do better than that!

5 the sooner the better/the bigger the better etc PREFER

used to emphasize that you would prefer something to happen as soon as possible, want something to be as big as possible etc:

School finishes at the end of the week, and the sooner the better as far as I'm concerned.

The younger you start learning a language, the better you'll speak it.

6 go one better (than somebody) (informal) SUCCESSFUL

to do something more successfully than someone else:

The following year Lewis went one better by winning the gold medal.

Of course, they had to go one better and have the whole garden redesigned.

→ BETTER OFF

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