

better

I

['betə] *n*

державший пари

II

1. ['betə] *n*

лучший; лучшее

one's betters - высшие по положению, вышестоящие лица; старшие

to change for the better - измениться к лучшему

◇ to think (all) the better of smb. - быть высокого мнения о ком-л.

for better or worse - в счастье и в несчастье, в радости и в горе

2. ['betə] *a*1. *compar* *om* good II

2. 1) лучший; высший

one's better feelings - лучшие чувства

2) более подходящий, более выгодный

you are a better man for this job than I am - ты больше подходишь для этой работы, чем я

3. лучше

I am /feel/ better today - мне сегодня лучше

are you feeling any better? - вы себя лучше чувствуете?

4. больший

the better part /half/ of smth. - большая часть чего-л., большинство

I haven't been there for the better part of twenty years - я не был там почти двадцать лет

◇ better sort - выдающиеся люди

no better than - ничуть не лучше

to do /to be/ better than one's word - \cong сделать больше обещанногоno better than she should be - *эфф.* \cong она не отличается строгостью поведения3. ['betə] *adv*1. *compar* *om* well² III

2. лучше

he does it better than I do - он делает это лучше меня

3. в большей степени; больше

I like him better than his brother - он мне нравится больше, чем его брат

better than a pound - больше фунта

4. полнее; основательнее; сильнее

he is better loved than ever - его любят сильнее, чем когда-либо

to be better off - жить лучше (*материально*)

he is better off now that he has a new job - теперь, когда у него новая работа, он лучше обеспечен

to go one better - превзойти

he tried to go us one better by bidding twice as much for it - он пытался одолеть нас, увеличив ставки вдвое

◇ to think better of smth. - передумать, изменить мнение

I know better - меня не проведешь

better late than never - лучше поздно, чем никогда

the sooner the better - чем скорее, тем лучше

4. ['betə] *v*

1. 1) улучшать; исправлять; совершенствовать

he never bettered his earlier works - он никогда не исправлял свои ранние произведения

2) улучшаться; исправляться

the situation has bettered since yesterday - со вчерашнего дня положение выправилось / \cong дела пошли в гору/3) *refl* получить повышение; продвигнуться (*по службе*)

in a few years he had bettered himself considerably by his talents and industry - за несколько лет он значительно продвинулся

по службе благодаря своим способностям и трудолюбию

2. превосходить, превышать

the other classes cannot better our grades - другие классы не могут обогнать нас в учёбе /по успеваемости/

better

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

bet-ter [**better** **bett**ers **better**ed **better**ing] *adjective, adverb, noun, verb BrE*['betə(r)]⁺ *NAmE* ['betər]⁺*adjective* (comparative of good)

1. of a higher standard or less poor quality; not as bad as sth else

• We're hoping for better weather tomorrow.

• Her work is getting **better and better** .

• He is in a much better mood than usual.

• The meal couldn't have been better.

• There's nothing better than a long soak in a hot bath.

• If you can only exercise once a week, that's **better than nothing** (= better than taking no exercise at all) .

2. more able or skilled

• She's far better at science than her brother.

3. more suitable or appropriate

- Can you think of a better word than 'nice'?
- It would be better for him to talk to his parents about his problems.
- **You'd be better** going by bus.

4. less ill/sick or unhappy

- She's a lot better today.
- His leg was getting better.
- You'll feel **all the better for** a good night's sleep.

5. fully recovered after an illness; in good health again

- Don't go back to work until you are better.

see also ↑well adj.

Rem: Most idioms containing better are at the entries for the nouns and verbs in the idioms, for example better luck next time is at luck.

more at discretion is the better part of valour **at** ↑discretion, two heads are better than one **at** ↑head n., the best/better part of sth **at** ↑part n., prevention is better than cure **at** ↑prevention

Word Origin:

Old English betera (adjective), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **beter** and German **besser**, also to ↑best.

Thesaurus:

better adj.

- Her new movie is much better than her last one.

superior • • **preferable** •

Opp: worse

better **than** sb/sth

superior/preferable **to** sb/sth

far/greatly/vastly/ininitely better/superior/preferable

Example Bank:

- Charles VII was a bad king, and Charles VIII was no better.
- Did you hurt yourself? Come here and let me kiss it better.
- Don't worry. The doctor will soon make you better.
- His latest book is a darned sight better than the one before.
- I hope you get better soon.
- I thought it better to tackle him outside of business hours.
- The new situation is no better than the old.
- There's nothing better than a nice juicy peach!
- We must make our inner cities better to live and work in.
- He was in a much better mood than usual.
- Her new movie is much better than her last one.
- Her work is getting better and better.
- I might not be a brilliant cook, but that meal's a darn sight better than anything you could do.
- I think he's a hundred times better as a teacher than Mr. White
- If you only exercise once a week, that's better than nothing.
- The weather should get better towards the end of the week.
- There's nothing better than a long soak in a hot bath.
- Your work is getting better all the time.

Idioms: ↑better off ▪ bigger/smaller/faster/slower the better ▪ ↑for better or worse ▪ ↑get the better of somebody ▪ ↑had best ▪ ↑no better than ▪ ↑so much the worse ▪ ↑that's better

adverb (comparative of well)

1. in a more excellent or pleasant way; not as badly

- She sings much better than I do.
- Sound travels better in water than in air.
- People are better educated now.

2. more; to a greater degree

- You'll like her when you know her better.
- A cup of tea? There's nothing I'd like better!
- Fit people are better able to cope with stress.

3. used to suggest that sth would be a suitable or appropriate thing to do

- The money could be better spent on more urgent cases.
- Some things are better left unsaid.
- You'd **do better to** tell her everything before she finds out from someone else.

Rem: Most idioms containing better are at the entries for the nouns, adjectives and verbs in the idioms, for example better the devil you know is at devil.

Word Origin:

Old English betera (adjective), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch **beter** and German **besser**, also to ↑best.

Grammar Point:

should / ought / had better

Should and ought to are both used to say that something is the best thing or the right thing to do, but should is much more common: ▪ You should take the baby to the doctor's. ◊▪ I ought to give up smoking. In questions, should is usually used instead of ought to: ▪ Should we call the doctor?

Had better can also be used to say what is the best thing to do in a situation that is happening now: ▪ We'd better hurry or we'll miss the train.

You form the past by using should have or ought to have: ▪ She should have asked for some help. ◊▪ You ought to have been more careful.

The forms should not or shouldn't (and ought not to or oughtn't to, which are rare in *NAmE* and formal in *BrE*) are used to say that something is a bad idea or the wrong thing to do: ▪ You shouldn't drive so fast.

The forms should not have or shouldn't have and, much less frequently, ought not to have or oughtn't to have are used to talk about the past: ▪ I'm sorry, I shouldn't have lost my temper.

noun

1. **singular, uncountable** something that is better

- the better of the two books
- I expected better of him (= I thought he would have behaved better) .

2. **your betters plural (old-fashioned)** people who are more intelligent or more important than you

more at a change for the better/worse **at** ↑change *n.*, your elders and betters **at** ↑elder *n.*, think (the) better of sb **at** ↑think *v.*

Word Origin:

Old English *betera* (adjective), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *beter* and German *besser*, also to ↑*best*.

verb

1. **often passive ~ sth** to be better or do sth better than sb/sth else

- The work he produced early in his career has never really been bettered.

2. **~ yourself** to improve your social position through education, a better job, etc

- Thousands of Victorian workers joined educational associations in an attempt to better themselves.

Verb forms:

verb forms	
present simple	
I / you / we / they	better
	BrE / 'betə(r)/
	NAmE / 'betər/
he / she / it	bettors
	BrE / 'betəz/
	NAmE / 'betəz/
past simple, past participle	bettered
	BrE / 'betəd/
	NAmE / 'betəd/
-ing form	bettering
	BrE / 'betərɪŋ/
	NAmE / 'betərɪŋ/

Word Origin:

Old English *betera* (adjective), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *beter* and German *besser*, also to ↑*best*.

Thesaurus:

get better *verb*

1. |

- Things got better after my husband found a job.

improve • • **pick up** • • **progress** • • **advance** • |informal **look up** • • **come along/on** •

Opp: get worse

things get better/improve/pick up/progress/are looking up/are coming along

technology is getting better/improves/progresses/advances

2. |

- He is finally getting better after a long illness.

recover • • **heal** • • **get well** • • **shake sth off** • • **pull through** • |formal **recuperate** • • **convalesce** •

Opp: get worse

recover/recuperate **from** sth

gradually get better/recover/heal

Example Bank:

- His early work has never really been bettered.
- Their success that season could not be bettered.

better

1. **better**¹ **S1 W1** /'betə \$ -ər/ *BrE* ¹ *AmE* ¹ *adjective*

[Language: Old English; Origin: *betera*]

1. [comparative of good] more useful, interesting, satisfactory, effective, suitable etc **OPP worse**:

- " Your stereo is better than mine.
- " There must be a better way to do this.
- " a better-quality car

much/a lot/far better

- " We now have a much better understanding of the disease.

better still/even better

- " It was even better than last year.

► **Better** is a comparative form. Do not say 'more better'.

2. [comparative of well]

a) more healthy or less ill or painful than before **OPP worse**:

- " She is a little better today, the doctor says.
- " I'm feeling much better, thank you.

b) completely well again after an illness:

- " When you're better we can see about planning a trip.
- " I hope he gets better (=recovers from an illness) soon.

3. **it is better/it would be better** used to give your opinion or make a suggestion about what you think should be done or happen

it is better to do something

- " It's much better to get a proper written agreement.

it is better/it would be better if

- " It might be better if you stayed here.

4. **get better** to improve:

- " Her English isn't really getting any better.
- " Things can only get better.

5. **no better**

a) not better than something else or something before:

- " The following day the weather was no better.

b) used to say that something is the best

there is no better way/example/place etc

- " There's no better way of exploring the region.

6. **nothing better**

a) used to say that you really like something or think that something is very good

like/love/enjoy nothing better (than)

- " She likes nothing better than a nice long walk along the beach.
- " There's nothing better than beating someone who's playing well.

b) used to say that a thing or situation is not very good, but is the only thing possible or available

have nothing better to do

- " Have you got nothing better to do than sit there playing that silly game?
- " I only picked it up because there was nothing better to read.

7. **that's better spoken** used to say that something has improved, that you are happier or more comfortable, or to encourage someone:

- " Ah, that's better. I needed to sit down.
- " 'Can you turn it down?' 'Is that better?'

8. **better late than never spoken** used to say that even if something happens late or someone arrives late, this is better than it not happening or their not arriving at all

⇒ **your better half/other half** at ↑half²(8), ⇒ **the best/better part of something** at ↑part¹(9), ⇒ **against your better judgment** at ↑judgment(1), ⇒ **sb's better nature** at ↑nature(2), ⇒ **better luck next time** at ↑luck¹(14), ⇒ **better the devil you know** at ↑devil(11), ⇒ **have seen better days** at ↑see¹(30)

• • •

THESAURUS

- **better** the ↑comparative of good: She wants a better job. | The sales figures were far better than expected. | Lucy's better at French than I am.
- **superior** better, especially in quality: German cars are far superior. | a superior product | He thinks men are superior to women.
- **preferable** *formal* more suitable or useful – used when saying which one you prefer: Cash would be preferable. | Anything would be preferable to the system we have now.
- **be an improvement on something** to be better than something that existed before: The engine is a huge improvement on previous diesel engines.
- **have the edge** to be slightly better than another person or thing – used especially when saying which one will win in a game or competition: Federer is likely to have the edge in Sunday's game. | For me, this film has the edge over the others.
- **be miles ahead (of somebody/something)** (also **be streets ahead (of somebody/something)** *British English*) *informal* to be very much better than someone or something that you are competing against: The company is streets ahead of its rivals.
- **there's no comparison spoken** used to emphasize that one person or thing is clearly much better than someone or something else: There's no comparison between the two teams. | 'Which apartment do you prefer?' 'Well, there's no comparison. The first one we saw is bigger, quieter, and has much nicer furniture.'

II. **better**² **S1 W1 BrE** *AmE* *adverb* [comparative of well]

1. to a higher standard or quality **OPP worse**:

- " He can speak French a lot better than I can.
- " Your bike will run better if you oil it. ⇒ **fare better** at ↑fare²

2. 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) 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) 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** 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** 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* 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

III. better³ BrE ^{AmE} noun

1. **the better** the one that is higher in quality, more suitable etc when you are comparing two similar people or things:

" It's hard to decide which one's the better.

2. **get the better of somebody**

a) if your feelings or wishes get the better of you, they make you behave in a way you would not normally behave:

" My curiosity finally got the better of me and I opened the letter.

" I think her nerves got the better of her.

b) to defeat someone or deal successfully with a problem

3. **for the better** in a way that improves the situation:

" a definite change for the better

" The president's fortunes seem, at last, to have taken a turn for the better (=started to improve).

4. **so much the better** used to say that something would be even better or bring even more advantages:

" If they can do them both at the same time, then so much the better.

5. **be all the better for something** to be improved by a particular action, change etc:

" I think it's all the better for that extra ten minutes' cooking.

6. **for better or (for) worse** used to say that something must be accepted, whether it is good or bad, because it cannot be changed:

" Work is, for better or worse, becoming more flexible nowadays.

7. **your betters** *old-fashioned* people who are more important than you or deserve more respect

⇒ †worse², ⇒ **elders and betters** at †elder²(2)

IV. better⁴ BrE ^{AmE} verb [transitive]

1. to be higher in quality, amount etc than someone or something else:

" His total of five gold medals is unlikely to be bettered.

2. **better yourself** to improve your position in society by getting a better education or earning more money

3. *formal* to improve something:

" bettering the lot of the working classes

better

Freakuency Pack

12500 **623**^{MCW}

15000 **107**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k BEST** ³⁴⁶⁸⁶²

best ¹⁷⁴³⁰⁸

better ¹⁷²²²⁶

betterment ³²⁸

betterments ⁰

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

52957 **454**⁸⁸¹⁸³ *jjr*

48285 **489**⁸²¹¹⁸ *rrr*

887 **21720**⁹⁵³ *nn1*

711 **25045**⁷⁵⁴ *vv0*

123 **67227**¹²⁶ *vvi*

51 **104463**⁵⁴ *nnu*

11 **243762**¹¹ *jj*

8 **290444**⁸ *cc*

⁷319026⁷ *pph1*

⁷319047⁷ *pphs1*

⁵391078⁵ *pphs2*
