At a Dinner Party



AT A DINNER PARTY

Delayed by traffic, Lori and Mike arrive late to a dinner party. Their hosts, Lisa and Todd, tell them not to worry and then take their drink order.

Lori: I'm sorry we're late. We got held up in traffic on Route 95.

Mike: There was a *pile-up* on the highway involving three cars. A deer ran across the highway.

Lori: We were sitting in traffic for an hour. We would've been better off walking here!

Lisa: What a nightmare! Come on in and chill out now. Join the party!

Lori: (handing Lisa a bottle of wine): This is for you and Todd.

Lisa: Thank you.

Lori: (handing Lisa a toy car): And this is a little something for your son.

Lisa: Oh, how kind of you! You shouldn't have.

Lori: It's our pleasure.

Todd: Can I get you a drink?

Mike: A drink would hit the spot. What do you have?

Todd: You name it, we've got it.

Lori: I'll take a Bloody Mary.*

Mike: Lori, if you took Tylenol for your toothache, you'd be better off not drinking any

alcohol!

Lori: Make that a virgin** Bloody Mary! *Hold the* vodka.

Todd: And what can I get you, Mike?

Mike: I'll take a vodka on the rocks.

Todd: Coming right up!

* Bloody Mary - a drink containing vodka, tomato juice, and usually other spices or flavorings

Language Lens: "Better off"

Use "better off" to:

- => Give advice to someone
- => Say what should be done

Form it like this:

would (or 'd) + be + better off+ verb in -ing form

Examples:

- □ Your son would be better off studying in Paris instead of Lyon.
- ☐ Frank would be better off taking the train instead of the bus to Manhattan.
- □ You'd be better off visiting Italy in November, after all the tourists have gone.
- □ You'd be better off working another year before applying to business school.

=> Use "would have been better off" to say what one should have done (in the past). This is sometimes used to express regret.

Form it like this:

would have (or would've) + been + better off+ verb in -ing form

Examples:

- □ We went to Spain in September, and it rained the whole time. We would have been better off going to Chile instead.
- □ Sharon would've been better off getting her MBA instead of a law degree.
- ☐ The fish at the Creekside Restaurant was lousy. I would've been better off ordering a hamburger.
- □ My college was very small. I would've been better off going to a larger school.

^{**} A virgin drink is a mixed drink that does not include the alcohol.

Quick Quiz

PART A: Practice giving advice using "You'd be better off"

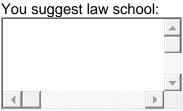
Example:

Joe: Should I take a taxi or the subway to the museum?

You suggest the subway:

Answer: You'd be better off taking the subway.

1. Mark: I'm thinking of applying to business school.



2. Ashley: I'm thinking of studying abroad in Shanghai.



3. **Ken:** Should I go to India in August?



4. **Diane:** Should I rent an apartment or buy a house?

You suggest she rent an apartment:



5. **Justin:** I just met Tiffany last month, but I'm thinking of asking her to marry me! You suggest he wait:

