

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*

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

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.

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.

You suggest law school:

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

You suggest Beijing:

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

You suggest October:

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: