

MODAL VERB “SHOULD”

We use **should** when we want to give suggestions or recommendations.

Examples:

You **should** ask her to go out with you.

She **should** go on a diet, she’s gaining a lot of weight.

He **should** try out for the baseball team, he’s good.

We **should** get up early tomorrow, we’ve got a long drive.

They **should** eat at Jose’s, the food there is great!

When using “should” as a suggestion the structure is as follows:

SUBJECT	+ SHOULD	+ VERB IN INFINITIVE FORM	+ COMPLEMENTIZER
I	should	do	my homework.
You	should	go	to that new restaurant.
He	should	learn	Spanish.
She	should	enter	the beauty contest.
It	should	stop	eating so much.
We	should	eat	at Joe’s the food is great!
They	should	visit	their grandparents often.

The negative of “**should**” is “**should not**”, but we use the contracted form of “**shouldn’t**” more frequently.

Examples:

I **shouldn’t** go out tonight, I don’t feel good.

You **shouldn’t** smoke, it’s not good for you.

He **shouldn’t** swim here, it’s too dangerous!

She **shouldn’t** see him, he’s no good for her.

It **shouldn’t** be left outside, it is going to rain.!

We **shouldn’t** be so lazy, we should study our Spanish.

They **shouldn’t** go to that bar, it’s a horrible place!

The structure for “**shouldn’t**” is the same as it is for “**should**”.

SUBJECT + SHOULDN’T + VERB IN INFINITIVE FORM + COMPLEMENTIZER

“Should” is also used as a strong possibility because usually the speaker has a reason or some evidence for making the statement.

Examples:

I **should** pass the exam, I studied hard for it.

You **should** win the race, you worked out all summer.

He **should** be elected president, he’s popular and he’s intelligent.

She **should** get promoted, she’s worked hard all year.

It **should** rain, there are a lot of clouds and it’s the rainy season.

We **should** get to Chicago by six, we left eight hours ago.

They **should** come to the party, Daniela said they were coming.

In the above examples the speaker has reasons and evidence for believing what they are saying. The possibility when using “should” is a little more stronger when using “might” or “may” because the speaker is a little more certain of the situation because there is more evidence in the above situations.

The structure for using “should” as a strong possibility is the same as it is for “should” as a suggestion:

SUBJECT + SHOULD + VERB IN INFINITIVE FORM + COMPLEMENTIZER

The negative form is the same as well, that is we use the contracted form, “**shouldn’t**” much more frequently than “**should not**”.

Read the sentences carefully and determine if the modal verb might is being used to show ability, make a request of or ask for permission informally.

11. When can you come to visit us?

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

12. I can play tennis, but I can't play basket ball.

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

13. She can dance very well. She is a professional dancer.

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

14. What musical instrument can you play?

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

15. Can I turn off the TV? Nobody is watching it.

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

16. Can you tell me where the bus station is?

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

17. My mother is a great cook. She can make many kinds of dishes.

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

18. Can you speak a little louder? It is very hard to hear you.

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

19. My father can speak four languages fluently.

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission

20. Can you dance rock music?

A. Ability

B. Request

C. Informal permission