

SHOULD: USES

(Modal Verb)

DUTY

Used to express that it is necessary, desirable, or important to perform the action of the following verb:

- *He should have told me about the change in plans.*
- *People like that should go to jail.*
- *Where should we meet tonight?*

PROBABLE

Used to express that the action of the main verb is probable:

- *She should be back at any minute.*
- *If you follow these directions, you shouldn't have any problem finding our house.*
- *That should be enough food for five people.*

OPINION

Used to express a desire or opinion:

- *I should think he'd be happy just to have a job.*
- *I shouldn't worry about that if I were you.*

ASKING WHY

Used after a question word, such as "how" or "why," when asking a reason for something:

- *How should I know where you put the car keys?*

WARNING

We sometimes use *should* in hypothetical conditional clauses with *if* to express possibility. It is formal:

[For example, information leaflet in a hotel room]

- *If you should wish to use the Internet, there is a code available at the reception desk.*
- *If you should decide not to go on the trip, you will get a full refund.*

WARNING

We can also use *Should you* as an alternative to *If you should* in these situations by changing the order of the subject and the verb. Compare these two sentences with the examples above. They have the same meaning and they are also formal:

- *Should you wish to use the Internet, there is a code available at the reception desk.*
- *Should you decide not to go on the trip, you will get a full refund.*

SHOULD: FORM**AFFIRMATIVE FORM**

Should comes first in the verb phrase (after the subject and before another verb):

- *I should go home now.*

Should cannot be used with another modal verb:

- *It should probably be sunny at that time of year.*
 - Not: ~~It should may be sunny ...~~ or ~~It may should be sunny ...~~

NEGATIVE FORM

The negative form of *should* is *shouldn't*. We don't use *don't*, *doesn't*, *didn't* with *should*:

- *There shouldn't be many people at the beach today.*

We use the full form ***should not*** in formal contexts or when we want to emphasize something:

- *We should not forget those who have given their lives in the defence of freedom.*

QUESTION FORM

The subject and ***should*** change position to form questions.

WARNING

We don't use *do, does, did*:

- *Should I turn on the air conditioning?*
 - ~~Not: Do I should I turn on the air conditioning?~~
- *Shouldn't you be studying now?*

We use ***should*** and ***shouldn't*** in question tags:

- *I shouldn't have told her that, should I?*
- *They should be getting back on Sunday, shouldn't they?*