

# Beginner

## The Use of Should

### RULES AND EXAMPLES

1. We use **should do** to mean that it is a good thing to do or the right thing to do. You can use should to give advice or to give an opinion.

Examples:

1. You look tired. You **should go** to bed.
2. The government **should do** more to reduce crime.
3. '**Should we invite** Susan to the party?' 'Yes, I think we **should.**'

- a.) We often use **should** with **I think / I don't think / Do you think ...?**:

Examples:

1. **I think** the government **should do** more to reduce crime.
2. **I don't think** you **should work** so hard.
3. '**Do you think I should apply** for this job?' 'Yes, **I think you should.**'

- b.) We use **shouldn't do something** to mean that it isn't a good thing to do:

Example:

You **shouldn't believe** everything you read in the newspapers.

- c.) **Should** is not as strong as **must** or **have to**:

Examples:

1. You **should** apologize. (= it would be a good thing to do)
2. You **must** apologize. / You **have** to apologize. (= you have no alternative)

2. You can use **should** when something is not right or what you expect:

Examples:

1. I wonder where Tina is. She **should** be here by now. (= she isn't here yet, and this is not normal)
2. The price on this packet is wrong. It **should be** \$2.50, not \$3.50
3. The man on the motorbike **should be wearing** a helmet.

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a.) We also use **should** to say that we expect something to happen:

Example:

1. She's been studying hard for the exam, so she **should pass**. (= I expect her to pass)
2. There are plenty of hotels in the town. It **shouldn't be** difficult to find somewhere to stay. (= I don't expect it to be difficult)

3. We use **should have done** something to mean we didn't do it, but it would have been the right thing to do:

Examples:

1. You missed a great party last night. You **should have come**. Why didn't you?
2. (= you didn't come, but it would have been good to come)
3. I wonder why they're so late. They **should have arrived** long ago.

a.) You **shouldn't have done** something = you did it, but it was the wrong thing to do:

Examples:

1. I'm feeling sick. I **shouldn't have eaten** so much. (= I ate too much)
2. She **shouldn't have been listening** to our conversation. It was private. (= she was listening)

Compare **should** (do) and **should have** (done):

1. You look tired. You **should go** to bed now.
2. You went to bed very late last night. You **should have gone** to bed earlier.