

Should/ought/had better (advice)

f I You use should or ought to to talk about the right thing to do in a situation:

Jane's in hospital. We should visit her.

You should go and see that film. It's great.

We ought to leave now, it's getting late.

You ought to be polite to people you don't know.

You use should not (or shouldn't), and ought not to when it is not the right thing to do:

Children shouldn't go to bed late.

You shouldn't eat too much chocolate, it's bad for you.

If you don't like people, you ought not to be a teacher.

are strictly prohibited You can use should or ought to when you are giving someone advice about what to do:

You should see a doctor if you are in pain.

You ought to buy a new car. Yours is dangerous.

You should spend your money carefully.

For advice about what not to do, you use shouldn't or ought not to:

You shouldn't drink and drive.

You ought not to smoke so much.

You can also use I think ... should and I think ... ought to to give your opinion. The negative is I don't think ... should/ought to ...:

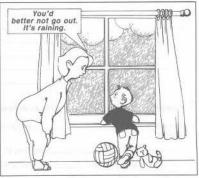
I think we ought to go now.

Do you think I should buy the red or the blue dress?

My friends don't think I should go to Britain next year.

You can also use had better + infinitive or 'd better (negative had better not + infinitive) to give your opinion or some advice:







A Match the sentence parts:

1 If you feel hot

2 If you are cold

3 If you feel hungry

4 If you feel sleepy

5 If you don't feel well

6 If your teeth hurt

7 If you don't understand something

you should put the heating on.

you ought to see a doctor.

you should see a dentist.

you should go to bed now.

you ought to open the window.

you should have something to eat.

you should ask for help.

Write one piece of positive advice and one piece of negative advice using should or shouldn't for these situations:

1 In a hospital (be calm) (make a lot of noise)

2 At work (arrive late) (work hard)

3 On the motorway (drive carefully) (drive close to the car in front)

4 In the library (play music) (work in silence)

Now rewrite your answers using ought to and ought not to.

C Look at the pictures, then give your friend advice using I think you should ... or I don't think you should ... :



1 I've got an exam tomorrow morning. What should I do?



3 I found a small sum of money on the ground this morning. What should I do?



5 I've been invited to a party by a group of people I don't really know. But my favourite film is on tv. What should I do?



2 I saw someone driving dangerously in town. What should I do?



4 The person next to me in the exam was cheating. What should I do?



6 I need a holiday. I have enough money for either a weekend in New York, or a week in Scotland. I can't decide. Where should I go?