

Unit
26

Can, could and (be) able to

A

We use **can** to say that something is possible or allowed, or that somebody has the ability to do something. We use **can + infinitive (can do / can see etc.)**:

- We **can see** the lake from our hotel.
- 'I don't have a pen.' 'You **can use** mine.'
- Can you speak** any foreign languages?
- I **can come** and see you tomorrow if you like.
- The word 'dream' **can be** a noun or a verb.

The negative is **can't (= cannot)**:

- I'm afraid I **can't come** to the party on Friday.

B

You can say that somebody **is able to** do something, but **can** is more usual:

- We **are able to see** the lake from our hotel.

But **can** has only two forms: **can (present)** and **could (past)**. So sometimes it is necessary to use **(be) able to**. Compare:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I can't sleep. | <input type="checkbox"/> I haven't been able to sleep recently. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom can come tomorrow. | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom might be able to come tomorrow. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maria can speak French, Spanish and English. | <input type="checkbox"/> Applicants for the job must be able to speak two foreign languages. |

C

Could

Sometimes **could** is the past of **can**. We use **could** especially with:

see hear smell taste feel remember understand

- We had a lovely room in the hotel. We **could see** the lake.
- As soon as I walked into the room, I **could smell** gas.
- I was sitting at the back of the theatre and **couldn't hear** very well.

We also use **could** to say that somebody had the general ability or permission to do something:

- My grandfather **could speak** five languages.
- We were totally free. We **could do** what we wanted. (= we were allowed to do)

D

Could and was able to

We use **could** for *general* ability. But if you want to say that somebody did something in a specific situation, use **was/were able to** or **managed to (not could)**:

- The fire spread through the building very quickly, but fortunately everybody **was able to escape / managed to escape**. (*not could escape*)
- We didn't know where David was, but we **managed to find / were able to find** him in the end. (*not could find*)

Compare:

- Jack was an excellent tennis player when he was younger. He **could beat** anybody.
(= he had the *general* ability to beat anybody)

but Jack and Andy played a match yesterday. Andy played well, but Jack **managed to beat** him.
(= he managed to beat him this time)

The negative **couldn't (could not)** is possible in all situations:

- My grandfather **couldn't swim**.
- We looked for David everywhere, but we **couldn't find** him.
- Andy played well, but he **couldn't beat** Jack.

Exercises

26.1 Complete the sentences using **can** or **(be) able to**. Use **can** if possible; otherwise use **(be) able to**.

- Gary has travelled a lot. He can speak five languages.
- I haven't been able to sleep very well recently.
- Nicole drive, but she doesn't have a car.
- I used to stand on my head, but I can't do it any more.
- I can't understand Mark. I've never understand him.
- I can't see you on Friday, but I meet you on Saturday morning.
- Ask Katherine about your problem. She might help you.

26.2 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

- (something you used to be able to do)
I used to be able to sing well.
- (something you used to be able to do)
I used
- (something you would like to be able to do)
I'd
- (something you have never been able to do)
I've

26.3 Complete the sentences with **can/can't/could/couldn't** + the following:

~~come~~ eat hear run sleep wait

- I'm afraid I can't come to your party next week.
- When Dan was 16, he 100 metres in 11 seconds.
- 'Are you in a hurry?' 'No, I've got plenty of time. I
- I was feeling sick yesterday. I anything.
- Can you speak a little louder? I you very well.
- 'You look tired.' 'Yes, I last night.'

26.4 Complete the answers to the questions with **was/were able to** ...

- A: Did everybody escape from the fire?
B: Yes, although the fire spread quickly, everybody was able to escape.
- A: Did you finish your work this afternoon?
B: Yes, there was nobody to disturb me, so I
- A: Did you have problems finding our house?
B: Not really. Your directions were good and we
- A: Did the thief get away?
B: Yes. No-one realised what was happening and the thief

26.5 Complete the sentences using **could**, **couldn't** or **managed to**.

- My grandfather travelled a lot. He could speak five languages.
- I looked everywhere for the book, but I couldn't find it.
- They didn't want to come with us at first, but we managed to persuade them.
- Laura had hurt her leg and walk very well.
- I ran my first marathon recently. It was very hard, but I finish.
- I looked very carefully and I see somebody in the distance.
- I wanted to buy some tomatoes. The first shop I went to didn't have any, but I get some in the next shop.
- My grandmother loved music. She play the piano very well.
- A girl fell into the river, but fortunately we pull her out.
- I had forgotten to bring my camera, so I take any pictures.

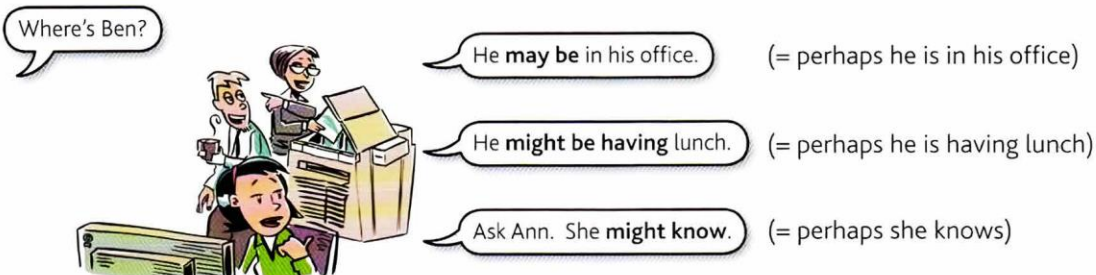
Unit
29

May and might 1

A

Study this example situation:

You are looking for Ben. Nobody is sure where he is, but you get some suggestions.



Where's Ben?

He **may be** in his office. (= perhaps he is in his office)

He **might be having** lunch. (= perhaps he is having lunch)

Ask Ann. She **might know**. (= perhaps she knows)

We use **may** or **might** to say that something is possible. Usually you can use **may** or **might**, so you can say:

- It **may** be true. or It **might** be true. (= perhaps it is true)
- She **might** know. or She **may** know.

The negative forms are **may not** and **might not** (or **mightn't**):

- It **may not** be true. (= perhaps it isn't true)
- She **might not** work here any more. (= perhaps she doesn't work here)

Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	may might	(not)	be (true / in his office etc.) be (doing / working / having etc.) know / work / want etc.
-----------------	----------------------------	-------	--

B

For the past we use **may have (done)** or **might have (done)**:

- A: I wonder why Kate didn't answer her phone.
B: She **may have been** asleep. (= perhaps she was asleep)
- A: I can't find my phone anywhere.
B: You **might have left** it at work. (= perhaps you left it at work)
- A: Why wasn't Amy at the meeting yesterday?
B: She **might not have known** about it. (= perhaps she didn't know)
- A: I wonder why David was in such a bad mood yesterday.
B: He **may not have been feeling** well. (= perhaps he wasn't feeling well)

Study the structure:

I/you/he (etc.)	may might	(not) have	been (asleep / at home etc.) been (doing / working / feeling etc.) known / had / wanted / left etc.
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C

Could is similar to **may** and **might**:

- It's a strange story, but it **could be** true. (= it is possible that it's true)
- You **could have left** your phone at work. (= it's possible that you left it there)

But **couldn't** (negative) is different from **may not** and **might not**. Compare:

- Sarah **couldn't have** got my message. Otherwise she would have replied.
(= it is not possible that she got my message)
- I wonder why Sarah hasn't replied to my message. I suppose she **might not have** got it.
(= it's possible that she didn't get it – so perhaps she did, perhaps she didn't)

Exercises

29.1 Write these sentences in a different way using **might**.

- 1 Perhaps Helen is in her office. *She might be in her office.*
- 2 Perhaps Helen is busy. _____
- 3 Perhaps she is working. _____
- 4 Perhaps she wants to be alone. _____
- 5 Perhaps she was ill yesterday. _____
- 6 Perhaps she went home early. _____
- 7 Perhaps she had to go home early. _____
- 8 Perhaps she was working yesterday. _____

In sentences 9–11 use **might not**.

- 9 Perhaps she doesn't want to see me. _____
- 10 Perhaps she isn't working today. _____
- 11 Perhaps she wasn't feeling well yesterday. _____

29.2 Complete each sentence with a verb in the correct form.

- 1 'Where's Ben?' 'I'm not sure. He might *be having* lunch.'
- 2 'Who is that man with Anna?' 'I'm not sure. It might _____ her brother.'
- 3 A: Who was the man we saw with Anna yesterday?
B: I'm not sure. It may _____ her brother.
- 4 A: What are those people doing by the side of the road?
B: I don't know. I suppose they might _____ for a bus.
- 5 'Is Sarah here?' 'I can't see her. She may not _____ yet.'

29.3 Read the situation and make sentences from the words in brackets. Use **might**.

- 1 I can't find Jeff anywhere. I wonder where he is.
a (he / go / shopping) *He might have gone shopping.*
b (he / play / tennis) *He might be playing tennis.*
- 2 I'm looking for Sophie. Do you know where she is?
a (she / watch / TV) _____
b (she / go / out) _____
- 3 I can't find my umbrella. Have you seen it?
a (it / be / in the car) _____
b (you / leave / in the restaurant) _____
- 4 Why didn't Dan answer the doorbell? I'm sure he was at home at the time.
a (he / go / to bed early) _____
b (he / not / hear / the doorbell) _____
c (he / be / in the shower) _____

29.4 Complete the sentences using **might not have ...** or **couldn't have ...**

- 1 A: Do you think Sarah got the message I sent her?
B: No, she would have replied. *She couldn't have got it.*
- 2 A: I was surprised Amy wasn't at the meeting. Perhaps she didn't know about it.
B: That's possible. *She might not have known about it.*
- 3 A: I wonder why they haven't replied to the email I sent. Do you think they received it?
B: Maybe not. They _____
- 4 A: I wonder how the fire started. Was it an accident?
B: No, the police say it _____
- 5 A: Mike says he needs to see you. He tried to find you yesterday.
B: Well, he _____ very hard. I was in my office all day.
- 6 A: The man you spoke to – are you sure he was American?
B: No, I'm not sure. He _____

Unit
30

May and might 2

A

We use **may** and **might** to talk about possible actions or happenings in the future:

- I haven't decided yet where to go on holiday. I **may go** to Ireland. (= perhaps I will go there)
- Take an umbrella with you. It **might rain** later. (= perhaps it will rain)
- The bus isn't always on time. We **might have** to wait a few minutes. (= perhaps we will have to wait)

The negative forms are **may not** and **might not (mightn't)**:

- Amy **may not go** out tonight. She isn't feeling well. (= perhaps she will not go out)
- There **might not be** enough time to discuss everything at the meeting. (= perhaps there will not be enough time)

Compare **will** and **may/might**:

- I'll **be** late this evening. (for sure)
- I **may/might** be late this evening. (possible)

B

Usually you can use **may** or **might**. So you can say:

- I **may go** to Ireland. *or* I **might go** to Ireland.
- Jane **might be** able to help you. *or* Jane **may be** able to help you.

But we use only **might (not may)** when the situation is *not real*:

- If they paid me better, I **might** work harder. (*not* I may work)

The situation here is not real because they do *not* pay me well, so I'm not going to work harder.

C

There is a continuous form: **may/might be -ing**. Compare this with **will be -ing**:

- Don't phone at 8.30. I'll **be watching** the football on television.
- Don't phone at 8.30. I **might be watching** (*or* I **may be watching**) the football on TV. (= perhaps I'll be watching it)

We also use **may/might be -ing** for possible plans. Compare:

- I'm **going** to Ireland in July. (for sure)
- I **might be going** (*or* I **may be going**) to Ireland soon. (possible)

But you can also say 'I **might go** / I **may go** ...' with little difference in meaning.

D

Might as well

Helen and Clare have just missed the bus. The buses run every hour.

What shall we do? Shall we walk?

We **might as well**. It's a nice day and I don't want to wait here for an hour.



We **might as well** do something = We should do it because there is no better alternative. There is no reason not to do it.

May as well is also possible.

- A: What time are you going out?
B: Well, I'm ready, so I **might as well go** now.
- Buses are so expensive these days, you **might as well get** a taxi. (= taxis are as good, no more expensive)

Exercises

30.1 Write sentences with **might**.

- Where are you going for your holidays? (to Ireland???)
I haven't decided yet. I might go to Ireland.
- What sort of car are you going to buy? (a Honda???)
I'm not sure yet. I _____.
- When is Tom coming to see us? (on Saturday???)
He hasn't said yet. _____.
- Where are you going to hang that picture? (in the dining room???)
I haven't made up my mind yet. _____.
- What is Tanya going to do when she leaves school? (go to university???)
She's still thinking about it. _____.

30.2 Complete the sentences using **might** + the following:bite break need ~~rain~~ slip wake

- Take an umbrella with you when you go out. It might rain later.
- Don't make too much noise. You _____ the baby.
- Be careful of that dog. It _____ you.
- Don't throw that letter away. We _____ it later.
- Be careful. The footpath is very icy. You _____.
- Don't let the children play in this room. They _____ something.

30.3 Complete the sentences. Use **might be able to** or **might have to** + one of the following:fix ~~help~~ leave meet sell work

- Tell me about your problem. I might be able to help _____ you.
- I'm not free this evening, but I _____ you tomorrow.
- I don't know if I'll be free on Sunday. I _____.
- I can come to the meeting, but I _____ before the end.
- I'm short of money. I want to keep my car, but I _____ it.
- A: There's something wrong with my bike.
B: Let me have a look. I _____ it.

30.4 Write sentences with **might not**.

- I'm not sure that Liz will come to the party.
Liz might not come to the party.
- I'm not sure that I'll go out this evening.
I _____.
- I'm not sure that we'll be able to get tickets for the game.
We _____.
- I'm not sure that Sam will be able to go out with us tonight.
_____.

30.5 Read the situations and make sentences with **might as well**.

- You and a friend have just missed the bus. The buses run every hour.
You say: We'll have to wait an hour for the next bus. We might as well walk.
- You've been invited to a party. You're not very excited about it, but you decide to go.
You say: I'm not doing anything else, so I _____ to the party.
- You've just painted your kitchen. You still have a lot of paint, so why not paint the bathroom too?
You say: We _____ . There's plenty of paint left.
- You and a friend are at home. You're bored. There's a film on TV starting in a few minutes.
You say: _____ . There's nothing else to do.

Unit
31

Have to and must

A

I **have to** do something = it is necessary to do it, I am obliged to do it:

- You can't turn right here. You **have to turn** left.
- I **have to wear** glasses for reading.
- Robert can't come out with us this evening. He **has to work** late.
- Last week Tina broke her arm and **had to go** to hospital.
- I haven't **had to go** to the doctor for ages.

You **have to** turn left here.We use **do/does/did** in questions and negative sentences (for the present and past simple):

- What **do** I **have to do** to get a new driving licence? (*not* What have I to do?)
- Karen **doesn't have to work** Saturdays. (*not* Karen hasn't to)
- Why **did** you **have to leave** early?

You can say **I'll have to ...**, **I'm going to have to ...** and **I might / I may have to ...**:

- They can't fix my computer, so **I'll have to buy** a new one. *or* **I'm going to have to buy** a new one.
- Tom **might have to work** late tomorrow. *or* Tom **may have to work ...** (= it's possible that he will have to)

B

Must is similar to **have to**:

- It's later than I thought. I **must go**. *or* I **have to go**.

You can use **must** or **have to** to give your own opinion (for example, to say what you think is necessary, or to recommend someone to do something):

- I haven't spoken to Sue for ages. I **must phone** her. / I **have to phone** her. (= I say this is necessary)
- Mark is a really nice person. You **must meet** him. / You **have to meet** him. (I recommend this)

We use **have to** (*not usually must*) to say what someone is *obliged* to do. The speaker is not giving his/her own opinion:

- I **have to work** from 8.30 to 5.30 every day. (a fact, not an opinion)
- Jane **has to travel** a lot for her work.

But **must** is used in written rules and instructions:

- Applications for the job **must be received** by 18 May.
- (*exam instruction*) Answer all the questions. You **must write** your answers in ink.

You cannot use **must** to talk about the past:

- We didn't have much time. We **had** to hurry. (*not* we must hurry)

C

Mustn't and **don't have to** are completely different:You **mustn't** do something = it is necessary that you do *not* do it (so don't do it):

- You **must keep** this a secret. You **mustn't tell** anyone. (= don't tell anyone)
- I promised I would be on time. I **mustn't be** late. (= I must be on time)

You **don't have to** do something = you don't need to do it (but you can if you want):

- You **don't have to tell** Tom what happened. I can tell him myself.
- I **don't have to be** at the meeting, but I think I'll go anyway.

D

You can use **have got to** instead of **have to**. So you can say:

- I've **got to** work tomorrow. *or* I **have to** work tomorrow.
- When **has** Helen **got to** go? *or* When **does** Helen **have to** go?

Exercises

31.1 Complete the sentences using **have to** / **has to** / **had to**.

- Bill starts work at 5 a.m. He has to get up at four. (he / get up)
- 'I broke my arm last week.' 'Did you have to go to hospital?' (you / go)
- There was a lot of noise from the street. _____ the window. (we / close)
- Karen can't stay for the whole meeting. _____ early. (she / leave)
- How old _____ to drive in your country? (you / be)
- I don't have much time. _____ soon. (I / go)
- How is Paul enjoying his new job? _____ a lot? (he / travel)
- 'I'm afraid I can't stay long.' 'What time _____?' (you / go)
- 'The bus was late again.' 'How long _____?' (you / wait)
- There was nobody to help me. I _____ everything by myself. (I / do)

31.2 Complete the sentences using **have to** + the verbs in the list. Some sentences are positive (**I have to ...** etc.) and some are negative (**I don't have to ...** etc.):

ask do drive ~~get up~~ go make make pay ~~show~~

- I'm not working tomorrow, so I don't have to get up early.
- Steve didn't know how to turn off the computer, so I had to show him.
- Excuse me a moment – I _____ a phone call. I won't be long.
- I'm not too busy. I have a few things to do, but I _____ them now.
- I couldn't find the street I wanted. I _____ somebody for directions.
- The car park is free. You _____ to park your car there.
- A man was injured in the accident, but he _____ to hospital because it wasn't serious.
- Jane has a senior position in the company. She _____ important decisions.
- When Patrick starts his new job next month, he _____ 50 miles to work every day.

31.3 In some of these sentences, **must** is wrong or unnatural. Correct the sentences where necessary.

- It's later than I thought. I must go. OK (have to is also correct)
- I must work every day from 8.30 to 5.30. I have to work
- You must come and see us again soon. _____
- Tom can't meet us tomorrow. He must work. _____
- I must work late yesterday evening. _____
- I must get up early tomorrow. I have a lot to do. _____
- Julia wears glasses. She must wear glasses since she was very young. _____

31.4 Complete the sentences with **mustn't** or **don't/doesn't have to**.

- I don't want anyone to know about our plan. You mustn't tell anyone.
- Richard doesn't have to wear a suit to work, but he usually does.
- I can sleep late tomorrow morning because I _____ go to work.
- Whatever you do, you _____ touch that switch. It's very dangerous.
- There's a lift in the building, so we _____ climb the stairs.
- You _____ forget what I told you. It's very important.
- Silvia _____ get up early, but she usually does.
- Don't make so much noise. We _____ wake the children.
- I _____ eat too much. I'm supposed to be on a diet.
- You _____ be a good player to enjoy a game of tennis.

Unit 32

Must mustn't needn't

A

Must and mustn't

You **must** do something = it is necessary that you do it:

- Don't tell anybody what I said. You **must** keep it a secret.
- We haven't got much time. We **must** hurry.

You **mustn't** do something = it is necessary that you do *not* do it (so don't do it):

- You **must** keep it a secret. You **mustn't** tell anyone. (= don't tell anyone)
- We **must** be very quiet. We **mustn't** make any noise.

B

Needn't and don't need to

You **needn't** do something = it's not necessary to do it (but you can if you like):

- We've got plenty of time. We **needn't** hurry. (= it is not necessary to hurry)
- Joe can stay here. He **needn't** come with us. (= it is not necessary for him to come)

You can also use **don't/doesn't need to**:

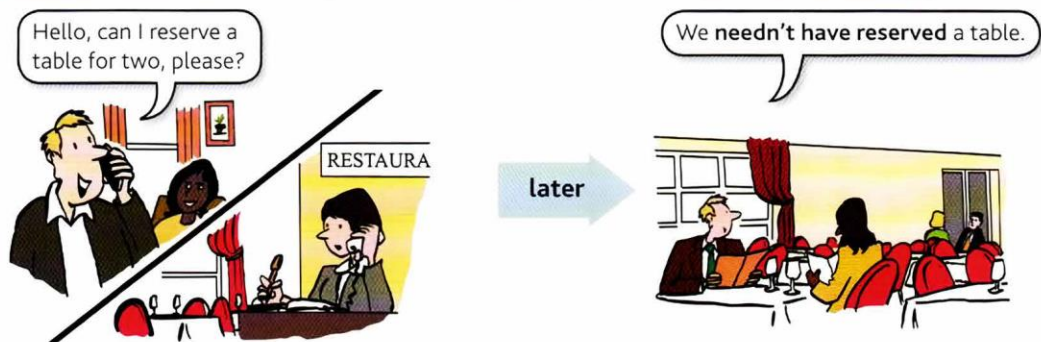
- We **don't need to** hurry.

Remember that we say **don't need to do / doesn't need to do**, but **needn't do** (*without to*).

C

Needn't have (done)

Study this example situation:



Paul and Sue decided to go to a restaurant. They reserved a table.

But the restaurant was almost empty. So they **needn't have reserved** a table.

They **needn't have reserved** a table. = They reserved a table, but this was not necessary.

Compare **needn't (do)** and **needn't have (done)**:

- Everything will be OK. You **needn't** worry. (it is not necessary)
- Everything was OK. You **needn't have worried**. (you worried, but it was not necessary)

D

Needn't have (done) and didn't need to (do)

He **needn't have done** something = he did it, but now we know that it was not necessary:

- Why did he get up at 5 o'clock? He **needn't have got** up so early. He could have stayed in bed longer.

He **didn't need to** do something = it was not necessary to do it. It doesn't matter whether he did it or not:

- He **didn't need to** get up early, so he didn't.
- He **didn't need to** get up early, but it was a beautiful morning, so he did.

He **didn't have to** ... is also possible in these examples.

Exercises

32.1 Which is correct?

- 1 We haven't got much time. We must / mustn't hurry. (must is correct)
- 2 We've got plenty of time. We mustn't / don't need to hurry.
- 3 I have to talk to Gary. I must / mustn't remember to call him.
- 4 I have to talk to Gary. I mustn't / needn't forget to call him.
- 5 There's plenty of time for you to make up your mind. You mustn't / don't need to decide now.
- 6 We needn't / mustn't wash these tomatoes. They've already been washed.
- 7 This is a valuable book. You must / needn't take good care of it and you mustn't / don't need to lose it.
- 8 A: What sort of house do you want to buy? Something big?
B: Well, it mustn't / needn't be big – that's not so important. But it must / mustn't have a nice garden – that's essential.

32.2 Complete the sentences. Use **needn't** + one of these verbs:

ask come explain ~~leave~~ walk

- 1 We've got plenty of time. We needn't leave yet.
- 2 I can manage the shopping alone. You _____ with me.
- 3 We _____ all the way home. We can get a taxi.
- 4 Just help yourself if you'd like more to eat. You _____ first.
- 5 I understand the situation perfectly. You _____ further.

32.3 Write two sentences for each situation. Use **needn't have** in the first sentence and **could have** in the second (as in the example). For **could have**, see Unit 27.

- 1 Why did you rush? Why didn't you take your time?
You needn't have rushed. You could have taken your time.
- 2 Why did you walk home? Why didn't you take a taxi?
.....
- 3 Why did you stay at a hotel? Why didn't you stay with us?
.....
- 4 Why did she phone me in the middle of the night? Why didn't she wait until the morning?
.....
- 5 Why did you shout at me? Why weren't you more patient?
.....
- 6 Why did you leave without saying anything? Why didn't you say goodbye to me?
.....

32.4 Correct the sentences where necessary.

- 1 We have plenty of time. We don't need hurry. We don't need to hurry
- 2 You must keep it a secret. You mustn't tell anybody else. OK
- 3 I'll be all right. You needn't to worry about me.
- 4 You mustn't wait for me. You go on and I'll join you later.
- 5 You don't need to keep these emails. You can delete them.
- 6 I needn't have gone out, so I stayed at home.
- 7 I needn't have bought eggs. We had some already.

Unit 33

Should 1

A

You **should do** something = 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:

- You look tired. You **should go** to bed.
- The government **should do** more to improve education.
- '**Should** we **invite** Stephanie to the party?' 'Yes, I think we **should**.'

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

- I think** the government **should do** more to improve education.
- I don't think** you **should work** so hard.
- '**Do you think** I **should apply** for this job?' 'Yes, **I think you should**.'

You **shouldn't** do something = it isn't a good thing to do:

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

Should is not as strong as **must** or **have to**:

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

B

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

- Where's Tina? She **should be** here by now.
(= she isn't here yet, and this is not normal)
- The price on this packet is wrong. It **should be** £2.50, not £3.50.
- That man on the motorbike **should be wearing** a helmet.

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

- Helen has been studying hard for the exam, so she **should pass**.
(= I expect her to pass)
- There are plenty of hotels in the town. It **shouldn't be** hard to find a place to stay.
(= I don't expect it to be hard)



He **should be wearing** a helmet.

C

You **should have done** something = you didn't do it, but it would have been the right thing to do:

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

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

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

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

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

D

Ought to ...

You can use **ought to** instead of **should** in the sentences on this page. We say 'ought to do' (with **to**):

- Do you think I **ought to apply** for this job? (= Do you think I **should apply** ... ?)
- Jack **ought not to go** to bed so late. (= Jack **shouldn't go** ...)
- It was a great party last night. You **ought to have come**.
- Helen has been studying hard for the exam, so she **ought to pass**.

Exercises

33.1 For each situation, write a sentence with **should** or **shouldn't** + one of the following:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| go away for a few days | go to bed so late | look for another job |
| put some pictures on the walls | take a photo | use her car so much |

- Anna needs a change. *She should go away for a few days.*
- Your salary is very low. You
- Jack always finds it hard to get up. He
- What a beautiful view! You
- Sue drives everywhere. She never walks. She
- Dan's room isn't very interesting.

33.2 Read the situations and write sentences with **I think / I don't think ... should ...**

- Joe and Catherine are planning to get married. You think it's a bad idea.
I don't think they should get married.
- Jane has a bad cold, but plans to go out tonight. You don't think this is a good idea. You say to her:
- Peter needs a job. He's just seen an advert for a job which you think would be ideal for him, but he's not sure whether to apply or not. You say to him:
- The government wants to increase taxes, but you don't think this is a good idea.

33.3 Complete the sentences with **should (have) + the verb in brackets**.

- Helen *should pass* the exam. She's been studying very hard. (pass)
- You missed a great party last night. *You should have come*. (come)
- We don't see you enough. You and see us more often. (come)
- I'm in a difficult position. What do you think I now? (do)
- I'm sorry that I didn't take your advice. I what you said. (do)
- We lost the game yesterday, but we We were the better team. (win)
- Tanya has a tennis match against Jane tomorrow. Jane – she's much better than Tanya. (win)
- 'Is Joe here yet?' 'Not yet, but he here soon.' (be)
- We went the wrong way and got lost. We right, not left. (turn)

33.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **should/shouldn't**. Some of the sentences are past and some are present.

- I'm feeling sick. I ate too much. *I shouldn't have eaten so much.*
- That man on the motorbike isn't wearing a helmet. That's dangerous.
He should be wearing a helmet.
- When we got to the restaurant, there were no free tables. We hadn't reserved one.
We
- The notice says that the shop is open every day from 8.30. It is 9 o'clock now, but the shop isn't open yet.
- The speed limit is 30 miles an hour, but Kate is doing 50.
She
- Laura told me her address, but I didn't write it down. Now I can't remember the house number.
I
- I was driving behind another car. Suddenly, the driver in front stopped without warning and I drove into the back of his car. It wasn't my fault.
The driver in front
- I walked into a wall. I was looking behind me. I wasn't looking where I was going.

Unit
34

Should 2

A

You can use **should** after:**insist recommend suggest demand propose**

- I **insisted** that he **should apologise**.
- Doctors **recommend** that everyone **should eat** plenty of fruit.
- What do you **suggest** we **should do**?
- Many people are **demanding** that something **should be done** about the problem.

also

It's important/vital/necessary/essential that ... **should** ... :

- It's essential** that everyone **should be** here on time.

B

You can also leave out **should** in the sentences in section A. So you can say:

- It's essential** that everyone **be** here on time. (= ... that everyone **should be** here)
- I **insisted** that he **apologise**. (= ... that he **should apologise**)
- What do you **suggest** we **do**?
- Many people are **demanding** that something **be done** about the problem.

This form (**be/do/apologise** etc.) is called the *subjunctive*. It is the same as the *infinitive* (without **to**).

You can also use normal present and past tenses:

- It's essential** that everyone **is** here on time.
- I **insisted** that he **apologised**.

C

After **suggest**, you cannot use **to** ... ('to do / to buy' etc.). You can say:

- What do you **suggest** we **should do**?
- or What do you **suggest** we **do**? (*but not* What do you suggest us to do?)
- Jane won the lottery.
- I **suggested** that she **should buy** a car with the money she'd won.
- or I **suggested** that she **buy** a car.
- or I **suggested** that she **bought** a car. (*but not* I suggested her to buy)

You can also use **-ing** after **suggest** (What do you **suggest doing**?). See Unit 53.

D

You can use **should** after a number of adjectives, especially:**strange odd funny typical natural interesting surprised surprising**

- It's **strange** that he **should be** late. He's usually on time.
- I was **surprised** that he **should say** such a thing.

E

You can say '**If** something **should** happen ...'. For example:

- We have no jobs at present, but **if** the situation **should change**, we will contact you.

You can also begin with **should** (**Should** something happen ...):

- Should** the situation **change**, we will contact you.

This means the same as '**If** the situation **changes**, ...'. With **should**, the speaker feels that the possibility is smaller.

F

You can use **I should** ... / **I shouldn't** ... to give somebody advice. For example:

- 'Shall I leave now?' 'No, **I should wait** a bit.'

Here, **I should wait** = I would wait if I were you, I advise you to wait.

More examples:

- 'I'm going out now. Is it cold out?' 'Yes, **I should wear** a coat.'
- I shouldn't stay** up too late. You have to be up early tomorrow.

Exercises

34.1 Write a sentence (beginning in the way shown) that means the same as the first sentence.

- 1 'I think it would be a good idea to see a specialist,' the doctor said to me.
The doctor recommended that I should see a specialist
- 2 'You really must stay a little longer,' she said to me.
She insisted that I
- 3 'Why don't you visit the museum after lunch?' I said to them.
I suggested that
- 4 'You must pay the rent by Friday,' the landlord said to us.
The landlord demanded that
- 5 'Why don't we go away for a few days?' Jack said to me.
Jack suggested that

34.2 Are these sentences right or wrong?

- 1 a Tom suggested that I should look for another job. OK
- b Tom suggested that I look for another job.
- c Tom suggested that I looked for another job.
- d Tom suggested me to look for another job.
- 2 a Where do you suggest I go for my holiday?
- b Where do you suggest me to go for my holiday?
- c Where do you suggest I should go for my holiday?

34.3 Complete the sentences using **should** + the following:

ask ~~be~~ leave listen say worry

- 1 It's strange that he should be late. He's usually on time.
- 2 It's funny that you that. I was going to say the same thing.
- 3 It's only natural that parents about their children.
- 4 Isn't it typical of Joe that he without saying goodbye to anybody?
- 5 I was surprised that they me for advice. What advice could I give them?
- 6 I'm going to give you all some essential information, so it's important that everybody very carefully.

34.4 Use the words in brackets to complete these sentences. Use **If ... should ...** .

- 1 We have no jobs at present. (the situation / change)
If the situation should change, we will contact you.
- 2 I've hung the washing out to dry on the balcony. (it / rain)
....., can you bring the washing in, please?
- 3 I think everything will be OK. (there / be / any problems)
....., I'm sure we'll be able to solve them.
- 4 I don't want anyone to know where I'm going. (anyone / ask)
....., just say that you don't know.

Write sentences 3 and 4 again, this time beginning with **Should**.

- 1 (3) Should, I'm sure we'll be able to solve them.
- 2 (4), just say that you don't know.

34.5 (Section F) Complete the sentences using **I should** + the following:

get keep phone ~~wait~~

- 1 'Shall I leave now?' 'No, I should wait a bit.'
- 2 'Shall I throw these things away?' 'No, them. You may need them.'
- 3 'Shall I go and see Paul?' 'Yes, but him first.'
- 4 'Is it worth getting this TV repaired?' 'No, a new one.'