

# 15 Should

## You should eat more fruit

- 1 Some examples of **should**:
- You **should learn** some Chinese before you go to Beijing.*
  - They **should have** a party in their new house.*
  - Dan **shouldn't play** his music so loud.*
  - Should I buy** a new car?*

- 2 We form sentences with **should** like this:

**should + verb**

*You **should have** a holiday.*

**POSITIVE**

I/he/she/it/you etc. **should** read this book.

**NEGATIVE**

I/he/she/it/you etc. **should not/ shouldn't** wait.

### Grammar in action

- 1 We use **should** to say if something is or isn't a good idea. Here, we're talking about travel plans:

*You **should visit** Japan in May or June. It's beautiful.* (= It's a good idea for you to visit Japan.)  
*She **shouldn't travel** everywhere by taxi.*  
 (= It isn't a good idea for her to travel by taxi.)  
*They **shouldn't go** by car. The train is much quicker.*



- 2 We use **You should/shouldn't...** to give practical advice. You might talk to a friend about their work:

*You **should relax** more. You look tired.*  
*You **shouldn't stay** at the bank if you don't like your job there.*  
*You **should take** a lunch break every day.*



We sometimes use **I** instead of **You** to give advice:

*My wife and I are going to have dinner in Luigi's on Saturday night. ~ Really? I **should book** a table. It's very busy at the weekend.*

**TIP**

### A Saying if something is a good idea

Olivia and her husband Charlie are talking about their twins, Harvey and Emma. Complete their conversation by writing forms of **should** instead of the phrases in brackets.

- CHARLIE After their exams Harvey and Emma will be free for eight weeks, before they go to university. They should find jobs.<sup>0</sup> (It's a good idea for them to find jobs.)
- OLIVIA I'm not sure, Charlie. It isn't easy to get summer jobs these days, and they've worked so hard! They .....<sup>1</sup>  
 (It's a good idea for them to have a holiday.)
- CHARLIE For eight weeks? I don't think so, Olivia. Emma .....<sup>2</sup>  
 (It's a good idea for Emma to talk to Uncle Jim.) Jim could give her a job at his shop. And Harvey could work in a hotel again.
- OLIVIA But they .....<sup>3</sup> (But it isn't a good idea for them to work all the time.) It's our last family summer!
- CHARLIE Perhaps you're right. We .....<sup>4</sup>  
 (It's a good idea for us all to go to France for a couple of weeks.)
- OLIVIA Yes, but we .....<sup>5</sup>  
 (Yes, but it isn't a good idea for us to decide today.) We should talk to them first. They're both eighteen now!

**B Giving advice on work, health and relationships**

Mike is writing a letter to Rashid, the son of an Indian friend. Rashid is starting a course at a British university. Start the phrase in brackets with *You should* or *You shouldn't*, and then add it to the letter.

Dear Rashid,

I hope you had a good journey. Your father asked me to give you some advice about life at university. Well, first of all, in my opinion, you should do a budget<sup>0</sup> (do a budget), because life can become difficult if you don't have any money! Next, .....<sup>1</sup> (think about food). You can't study if you don't eat well. For example, .....<sup>2</sup> (eat take-aways) every evening! They're expensive, and they're not very good for you. ....<sup>3</sup> (go to your local shops) or the supermarket and buy simple, fresh food. Vegetables and some types of fish are very cheap.

Soon you'll start your course. Your university work is important, but .....<sup>4</sup> (study) all night! You'll be tired in the morning. Instead, .....<sup>5</sup> (make a timetable) for yourself, and work regularly. After you've worked for three hours or so, .....<sup>6</sup> (go for walk) or a swim. It's important to get some fresh air!

It's also important to meet people. ....<sup>7</sup> (go out every night), because it's expensive, but it's a good idea to make new friends in the first month or two. Friends can help you when life is hard! Finally, if you need any more help or advice, .....<sup>8</sup> (call me).

Yours truly,  
Mike

**WORD FOCUS**  
1 To do a *budget* means 'to decide how much money you can spend every week/every month, etc.'

2 A *take away* is a hot meal that you buy from a shop or restaurant and then take home to eat.

**C Saying something is a good idea and giving advice**

Scott is phoning Eve at work. After the example, add *should* and *shouldn't* three more times each, using '/' and writing the correct word at the end of the line.

SCOTT Hi, Eve. It's seven o'clock. Are you still at work?

EVE You /ring me at the office, Scott. I can't talk right now. *shouldn't*

SCOTT Have you got a headache again?

EVE Yes. It started this afternoon. I get a headache most days.

SCOTT Then you see a doctor.

EVE I know. I'll go next week.

SCOTT Good. Anyway, it's my birthday on Saturday. We have a party. What do you think?

EVE I'm not sure, Scott. I'm so busy at work at the moment.

SCOTT But you work at the weekend! Life is too short.

EVE Perhaps you're right. But if we have a party, we cook anything. I'm too tired.

SCOTT That's fine. We ring Max. He could bring some great cold food from his shop.

EVE OK, but we invite too many people. It's too much work.

SCOTT I understand. Don't worry, we'll have a quiet party!



# 15 *Should* *Should I tell them?*

**3** Look at this dialogue:  
*Should I wear a suit tonight?*  
~ No, but I **don't think you should** wear jeans.

**4** We form questions with **should** like this:  
**should + I/he/she/it/you etc. + verb**  
*Should we buy some food?*

### Grammar in action

**3** We use **Should I...?/Should we...?** to ask for someone's opinion or advice. Here, we're making plans for a party:  
*Should I invite Sam and Meg, too?* ~ You can, but Sam doesn't like parties.  
*Should we cook some food for our guests?*  
~ No. Crisps and peanuts will be OK.  
*Should I get some new CDs?*  
~ That's a good idea. We need some dance music.

Sometimes we ask **What should I do?**:  
*Greg wants me to help him with his report, and Sue wants me to go to a meeting at the same time. What should I do?*

**TIP**

We often use the verb **think** before **should**:  
*I think you should call the Police.*  
*I don't think you should eat another pizza.*  
*Do you think I should talk to Chris? He looks a bit sad.*

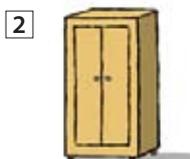
**TIP**



**WORD FOCUS**

First match these words with the correct pictures:

- wardrobe .....
- armchair .....
- chest of drawers .....
- sofa .....



### D Asking for opinions or advice

Lauren and Robert are in a furniture shop, looking for things for their new house. Put the words in brackets in the right order, and add them to the conversation. Use capital letters and question marks where necessary. *Get sometimes means buy.*

LAUREN *Should we buy a sofa*<sup>0</sup> (a sofa/we/buy/should) today, or .....<sup>1</sup> (buy/should/an armchair/we), Robert?

ROBERT Well, this brown sofa looks nice. ....<sup>2</sup> (try/we/it/should) (*They sit on the sofa.*)

LAUREN It's very comfortable, isn't it? .....<sup>3</sup> (get/should/it/we) How much is it?

ROBERT I don't know. ....<sup>4</sup> (ask/I/that assistant/should)

LAUREN I think he's busy at the moment with that couple, but there's some information on the table.

ROBERT I'll have a look. Oh! It's two thousand pounds! .....<sup>5</sup> (go/to another shop/should/we)

LAUREN I think the prices will be the same.

ROBERT Really? .....<sup>6</sup> (look/I/ on the internet instead/should) It might be cheaper.

LAUREN But we need to get something today, because the house is so empty!

ROBERT Well, .....<sup>7</sup> (a wardrobe/ should/we/buy/do you think) or a chest of drawers for the bedroom, then?

LAUREN Perhaps, or .....<sup>8</sup> (should/a coffee table/get/we) for the living room?

ROBERT Let's have a look upstairs!

**E Making plans for a visit to Britain**

We use *should* to say if something is a good idea, to give advice, and to ask for someone's opinion. Bob, from America, is emailing his friend Sally. Add the phrases below to the messages, but there is one phrase you won't need.

think you should I don't think you should I visit  
 should go shouldn't try should you fly should take

Hi Sally,

As I said in my last message, I'll arrive in the UK on 4 September, and I can stay for two weeks. I'll spend two days in London with you, but then I'm not sure. Should fly<sup>0</sup> to Scotland first, and see Edinburgh and the Highlands, or .....<sup>1</sup> hire a car and drive to Wales? And I want to see Liverpool too! And what about the old cities like Bath and Oxford and York? Should .....<sup>2</sup> them too? Help me, please!

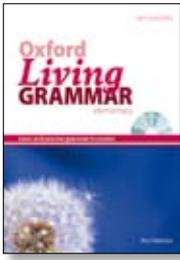
Hi Bob,

You .....<sup>3</sup> to do everything! You don't have time! I .....<sup>4</sup> should travel by train, because you can relax and see things as you travel. First, you .....<sup>5</sup> the train from London to York. It only takes two hours, so you can spend the rest of the day looking at the city. I .....<sup>6</sup> to Edinburgh next. It's a nice journey with views of Durham, Newcastle and the sea on the way. There's a lot to see in Edinburgh, but I .....<sup>7</sup> you should stay too long, because I know you want to see the Highlands. So, after a couple of days, .....<sup>8</sup> take the train to Inverness, where you can hire a car and see the mountains! Finally, you can fly down from Inverness to Liverpool in an hour, and then take the train back to London. What do you think?

**F Staying in Manchester**

Despina has just finished an English summer course in Manchester. She's been living with Rachel and Sean. The word *should* is missing from the conversation. After the example, put // five more times where *should* is missing.

- RACHEL You know that Despina wants to stay longer in Manchester, don't you, Sean?
- SEAN Yes. I think it's a good idea for her. She // look for a room or a small flat.
- RACHEL Yes, but she doesn't know the city very well, so we help her? (*Despina arrives home.*)
- DESPINA Hi Rachel, Sean! I've found a great photography course at the university, but my mother wants me to return to Greece. What I do?
- RACHEL How long is the course, Despina?
- DESPINA Six months. Do you think I find a different course in Athens?
- RACHEL No, but I think you speak to your mother today or tomorrow.
- SEAN You tell her that your course is only six months long, Despina, and that you'll go home for Christmas!



**Answers:**  
**Oxford Living Grammar**

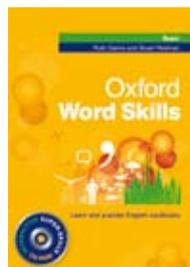
**15 Should**

- A**
- should have a holiday.
  - should talk to Uncle Jim.
  - shouldn't work all the time.
  - should all go to France for a couple of weeks.
  - shouldn't decide today.
- B**
- you should think about food
  - you shouldn't eat take-aways
  - You should go to your local shops
  - you shouldn't study
  - you should make a timetable
  - you should go for a walk
  - You shouldn't go out every night
  - you should call me
- C**
- SCOTT Hi, Eve. It's seven o'clock. Are you still at work?  
 EVE You / ring me at the office, Scott. I can't talk right now. *shouldn't*
- SCOTT Have you got a headache again?  
 EVE Yes. It started this afternoon. I get a headache most days.
- SCOTT Then you / see a doctor. *should*  
 EVE I know. I'll go next week.
- SCOTT Good. Anyway, it's my birthday on Saturday. We / have a party. What do you think? *should*
- EVE I'm not sure, Scott. I'm so busy at work at the moment.
- SCOTT But you / work at the weekend! Life is too short. *shouldn't*
- EVE Perhaps you're right. But if we have a party, we / cook anything. I'm too tired. *shouldn't*
- SCOTT That's fine. We / ring Max. He could bring some great cold food from his shop. *should*
- EVE OK, but we / invite too many people. It's too much work. *shouldn't*
- SCOTT I understand. Don't worry, we'll have a quiet party!

**WORD FOCUS** 1 chest of drawers 2 wardrobe  
 3 sofa 4 armchair

- D**
- should we buy an armchair
  - Should we try it?
  - Should we get it?
  - Should I ask that assistant?
  - Should we go to another shop?
  - Should I look on the internet instead?
  - do you think we should buy a wardrobe
  - should we get a coffee table
- E**
- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1 should I      | 5 should take |
| 2 I visit       | 6 should go   |
| 3 shouldn't try | 7 don't think |
| 4 think you     | 8 you should  |

- F**
- RACHEL You know that Despina wants to stay longer in Manchester, don't you, Sean?
- SEAN Yes. I think it's a good idea for her. She / look for a room or a small flat.
- RACHEL Yes, but she doesn't know the city very well, so / we help her? (*Despina arrives home.*)
- DESPINA Hi Rachel, Sean! I've found a great photography course at the university, but my mother wants me to return to Greece. What / I do?
- RACHEL How long is the course, Despina?
- DESPINA Six months. Do you think I / find a different course in Athens?
- RACHEL No, but I think you / speak to your mother today or tomorrow.
- SEAN You / tell her that your course is only six months long, Despina, and that you'll go home for Christmas!



**Answers:**  
**Oxford Word Skills Basic**

**Unit 58**

- |                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| 1 go                      | 4 take        |
| 2 book                    | 5 guided      |
| 3 visit                   | 6 go on       |
| 2 1 took, typical         | 4 art         |
| 2 should, round           | 5 went, guide |
| 3 got, map                |               |
| 3 <i>Your own answers</i> |               |