

SHOULD / SHOULDN'T

A2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Give advice and ask what is a good idea.

1. READ: A busy week

Read the conversation. Notice the bold advice phrases.

Leo: I've got three tests this week. I don't know where to start.

Anna: You **should make** a study plan. Which test is first?

Leo: English, on Tuesday. **Should I study** all evening?

Anna: No, you **shouldn't stay** up too late. Take a break after an hour.

Leo: Okay. I'll start with English. Can we practise together tomorrow?

Anna: Of course. We **should meet** at the library. It's quiet there.

2. GRAMMAR: Advice, not a rule

Use should / shouldn't + the base verb to say what is or isn't a good idea.

Form	Pattern	Example
Positive	subject + should + verb	You should take a break.
Negative	subject + shouldn't + verb	You shouldn't rush.
Question	Should + subject + verb?	Should I ask for help?

The form is the same for every subject: **she should**, not she shoulds.

Don't add **to**: **You should rest**, not should to rest.

Short answers: Yes, you should. / No, you shouldn't. **shouldn't** = should not.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct form. The example answer is bold: You should **rest** / to rest.

1. He should / shoulds ask his teacher.
2. You should bring / brings a coat.
3. We shouldn't / don't should leave late.
4. Should / Do should I call her?
5. They should check / to check the time.
6. She should wear / wears comfortable shoes.
7. No, you shouldn't / don't. (Should I wait?)
8. What should / does should we take?

Read each answer aloud. Check the subject, the noun or the clue.

SHOULD / SHOULDN'T

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: A first cycling trip

Complete the question and advice. Use should / shouldn't and the base verb. Read the clues.

Nina: It's my first long bike ride. What (1) _____ (should / I / take)?

Sam: You (2) _____ (take) some water. You'll get thirsty.

Nina: My backpack is heavy. I've packed two big books.

Sam: You (3) _____ (bring) those. You won't need them.

Nina: Okay, I'll leave them here. What about the route?

Sam: We (4) _____ (use) the river path. It's quieter than the road.

Nina: Good. I (5) _____ (ride) too fast, then. I want to enjoy it.

Sam: Exactly. And we (6) _____ (stop) at the cafe for a break.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Correct the mistake.

Example: He shoulds rest. **He should rest.**

1. You should to take a break.

2. She doesn't should worry.

3-4: Put the words in order. Example: ask / should / I / ? **Should I ask?**

3. we / should / where / meet / ?

4. late / shouldn't / you / arrive

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write advice for a friend visiting your town. Use should twice and shouldn't once.

Example: **You should visit the park. You should take the bus. You shouldn't drive in the centre.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

1. Your partner wants to improve their English. Ask about their routine, then give advice.

2. Plan a day out for a visitor. Ask: **Where should we go? What should we take?**

Agree on two good ideas and one thing to avoid.

SHOULD / SHOULDN'T

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A busy week

Sample target language from the conversation:

Anna: You **should make** a study plan. Which test is first?

Leo: English, on Tuesday. **Should I study** all evening?

Anna: No, you **shouldn't stay** up too late. Take a break after an hour.

Anna: Of course. We **should meet** at the library. It's quiet there.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| 1. should | 2. bring |
| 3. shouldn't | 4. Should |
| 5. check | 6. wear |
| 7. shouldn't | 8. should |

B. COMPLETE: A first cycling trip

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. should I take | 2. should take |
| 3. shouldn't bring | 4. should use |
| 5. shouldn't ride | 6. should stop |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. You should take a break.
2. She shouldn't worry.
3. Where should we meet?
4. You shouldn't arrive late.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: You should visit the park. You should take the bus. You shouldn't drive in the centre.

Teacher note: Should expresses advice, not an obligation. B1 is a question; B2-6 use contextual clues for positive or negative advice. In personal tasks, accept different sensible suggestions. Avoid treating advice as a fixed rule.