

## Modal verbs – ‘should do’ vs. ‘should have done’ – Exercises

### PRESENT & FUTURE

⇒ When we talk about the present or future situation, we use **‘should + infinitive without to’**. It is often used to give other people advice.

E.g. *I think I **should visit** my grandma next week. I haven't done it for some time now. I've just lost my wallet. What **should I do**?*

### PAST

⇒ When we talk about the past and we want to express our criticism or regret, we use **‘should + have + past participle’**. This grammar construction indicates that someone did something wrong. We can criticise other people's behaviour or our own.

E.g. *You **should have worn** a jumper yesterday. It was really cold. You **shouldn't have spent** all your money in one day. Now, you're broke.*

**You should have done something** = you didn't do it and now you can only regret it because it was the right thing to do:

*It was raining heavily. You **should have taken** your umbrella. Why didn't you?  
You've been drowning in debt. You **should have paid** them off long ago.*

**You shouldn't have done something** = you did it, but it was a mistake

*I **shouldn't have bought** so many clothes in the sales. I don't have any money left.  
I got stuck in a traffic jam. I **shouldn't have gone** by car. The train would have been much faster.*

⇒ Compare ‘should do’ and ‘should have done’

*You look exhausted. You **should work** less.  
Last year was really stressful for you. You **should have worked** less.*

⇒ Note:

Instead of **‘should’** we can also use **‘ought to’**. The meaning is the same, but ‘ought to’ is used less often.

E.g. *I **ought to** have done my homework earlier.  
I **ought to** work harder.*

**Ex. 1** Complete the sentences with **should / shouldn't** or **should / shouldn't have** + the verb in brackets.

1. She ..... (win) the championships. Other competitors were much better.
2. It's late. I ..... (go) now because I've got work to do.
3. I didn't know that you were in trouble. You ..... (tell) me.
4. Children were disappointed that they didn't go to the amusement park. You ..... (make) that promise to them.
5. You look really exhausted and worn-out. I think you ..... (start) looking for another job.
6. It wasn't very kind of you not to lend me some money. You ..... (help) me.
7. I've got too many clothes. I ..... (give) some of them away to people who may really need them.
8. Tina got lost. She ..... (turn) right at the traffic lights.
9. It was my fault. I ..... (warn) you against him.
10. There are lots of shops in a town. It ..... (be) difficult to do some shopping there.
11. You ..... (buy) tickets in advance. Now there is no chance of getting them.
12. I have a headache. I ..... (stay up) late last night.
13. You ..... (pass) the exam with flying colours. You've been studying really hard.
14. I have no idea what I ..... (do). What would you do if you were me?
15. We sent your order four days ago. It ..... (arrive) by now.
16. You missed my wedding day. You ..... (come). It was amazing.
17. Anna has gone to the shop, but she ..... (be back) in a minute.
18. We ..... (make) a reservation yesterday. Now there isn't any unoccupied seat.
19. I'm having an important meeting on Friday. I ..... (make) a good impression on my boss.
20. Your house isn't very cosy. You ..... (put) some pictures on the walls.