

# UNIT 34 Should (1)

## a) Study this example:

Tom has just come back from the cinema:

Ann: Hello, Tom. Did you enjoy the film?

Tom: Yes, it was great. You **should go** and see it.

Tom is advising Ann to go and see the film. 'You **should go**' means that it would be a good thing to do. We often use **should (do)** when we say what we think is a good thing to do or the right thing to do.

- The government **should do** something about the economy.
- 'Should we **invite** Sue to the party?' 'Yes, I think we **should**.'

'You **shouldn't do something**' means that it is not a good thing to do:

- You've been coughing a lot recently. You **shouldn't smoke** so much.
- Tom **shouldn't drive** really. He is too tired.

**Should** is not as strong as **must**:

- You **should stop** smoking. (= It would be a good idea.)
- You **must stop** smoking. (= It is necessary that you stop.)

## b) We often use **should** when we ask for or give an opinion about something. Often we use **I think / I don't think / do you think?**:

- I **think** the government **should do** something about the economy.
- I **don't think** you **should work** so hard.
- 'Do you think I **should apply** for this job?' 'Yes, I **think you should**.'

## c) We also use **should** to say something is not 'right' or not what we expect:

- The price on this packet is wrong. It says 65 pence but it **should be** 50.
- Those children **shouldn't be playing**. They **should be** at school.
- That motor-cyclist **should be wearing** a crash helmet.

## d) For the past, we use **should have (done)** to say that someone did the wrong thing:

- Hello, Ann. The party last night was great. You **should have come**. Why didn't you?
- I'm feeling sick. I **shouldn't have eaten** so much chocolate.
- Why were you at home yesterday? You **should have been** at work.
- She **shouldn't have been listening** to our conversation. It was private.

## e) You can use **ought to** instead of **should** in the sentences in this unit:

- It's really a good film. You **ought to go** and see it.
- Tom **ought not to drive**. He is too tired.
- It was a great party. You **ought to have come**.

For more information about **should** see Unit 35.

## UNIT 34 Exercises

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### 34.1 *You are giving advice to a friend. Use should or shouldn't.*

*Example:* Your friend is always coughing because he smokes too much. Advise him to stop smoking. You should stop smoking.

- 1 Your friend has a bad toothache. Advise him to go to the dentist. You .....
  - 2 Your friend rides his bicycle at night without lights. You think this is dangerous. Advise him not to do it. ....
  - 3 Your friend is going to visit Greece. Advise him to learn a few words of Greek before he goes. ....
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### 34.2 *This time you give your opinion about something. Use I think / I don't think ...*

*Example:* Tom has just been offered a job. You think it would be a good idea for him to accept it. I think Tom should accept the job.

- 1 You think it would be a good idea for all motorists to wear seat-belts.  
I think .....
  - 2 You don't think it would be a good idea for Jill and Sam to get married.  
I .....
  - 3 Your friend has a bad cold. Tell him that you think it would be a good idea for him to stay at home this evening.  
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### 34.3 *Now you have to read the situations and write sentences with should (have) and shouldn't (have). Sometimes you have to use the present, sometimes the past.*

*Examples:* The speed limit is 30 miles an hour but Tom is driving at 50.

He shouldn't be driving so fast.

When we got to the restaurant there were no free tables. We hadn't reserved one. We should have reserved a table.

- 1 It's very cold. Mr Taylor, who has been ill recently, is walking along the road without a coat. He .....
- 2 We went for a walk. While we were walking, we got hungry but we hadn't brought anything with us to eat. We said: We .....
- 3 I went to Paris. Marcel lives in Paris but I didn't go to see him while I was there. When I saw him later, he said: You .....
- 4 The notice says that the shop is open every day from 8.30. It is now 9 o'clock but the shop isn't open. ....
- 5 The driver in front stopped suddenly without warning and I drove into the back of his car. It wasn't my fault. ....
- 6 The children normally go to bed at 9 o'clock. It is now 9.30. They are not in bed; they are watching television. (*two sentences*) .....
- 7 The accident happened because Tom was driving on the wrong side of the road.  
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