

UNIT 35 Should (2)

a) **Should** to say that something will probably happen:

– A: Do you think you'll be late home tonight?

B: I don't think so. I **should be** home at the usual time.

Here, 'I **should be** home' means 'I will probably be home'. You can use **should** to say what *will probably happen*. **Ought to** can also be used with this meaning:

– She's been studying very hard, so she **should pass** her examination.
(or 'she **ought to pass** her examination')

b) If ... **should** ...

– If you **should see** Tom this evening, can you tell him to phone me?

This is similar to 'If you see Tom' (without **should**). With **should** the speaker is less certain:

– If it **should rain**, can you bring in the washing from the garden?

– Don't worry if I **should be** late home tonight.

You can also begin with **should** (before the subject):

– **Should you see** Tom this evening, can you tell him to phone me?

c) You can use **should** after these verbs (other structures are possible too):

suggest **propose** **recommend** **insist** **demand**

– They **insisted** that we **should have** dinner with them.

or: They **insisted** that we **had** dinner with them.

– She **demanded** that I **should apologise** to her.

or: She **demanded** that I **apologised** to her.

Be careful with **suggest**. You cannot use the infinitive (to do / to play etc.) after **suggest**:

What do you **suggest we should do**? or What do you **suggest we do**?

(but *not* 'What do you suggest us to do?')

Jim **suggested (that) I should buy** a car. or Jim **suggested (that) I bought** a car.

(but *not* 'Jim suggested me to buy')

For **suggest -ing** see Unit 53.

d) You can use **should** after these adjectives:

important
essential

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.

UNIT 35 Exercises

35.1 In this exercise you have to use **should** to say that you think something will happen.

Example: Do you think Margaret will pass the examination?

Well, ~~she should pass the examination~~ She has studied very hard.

1 Do you think Ted will get the job he applied for?

Well, He's got all the necessary qualifications.

2 Do you think Jim will win his tennis match against Tom?

Well, He's a much better player than Tom.

3 Do you think £10 will be enough to do all the shopping?

Well, it But take a bit more in case it isn't.

35.2 In this exercise you have to use **if ... should ...**

Example: I don't suppose you'll see Tom this evening but ~~if you should see him,~~
can you ask him to phone me?

1 I don't think Ann will arrive before I get home but
can you look after her until I come?

2 I don't think there will be any letters for me while I'm away but
....., can you send them on to this address?

3 I don't suppose you'll need any help but , just let me
know.

35.3 Now you have to write a sentence (beginning in the way shown) which means the same as the first sentence.

Example: '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.~~

1 'You really must stay a little longer', she said to me.

She insisted that

2 'Why don't you visit the museum after lunch?' I said to them.

I suggested that

3 'You must pay the rent by Friday at the latest', he said to us.

He demanded that

4 'Why don't you go away for a few days?' Jack suggested to me.

Jack suggested that

35.4 This time you have to put **should** in these sentences with one of these verbs:

worry listen ~~be~~ leave say

Example: It's strange that he ~~should be~~ late. He's usually on time.

1 It's funny that you that. I was going to say the same thing.

2 It's only natural that parents about their children.

3 Isn't it typical of him that he without saying goodbye?

4 It's very important that everyone very carefully.