

Using the Verb “Should”

Introduction

The verb “should” is used in English to express advice, obligation, or expectation. It is a modal verb that helps convey degrees of necessity or recommendation.

Uses of “Should”

1. Giving Advice

- **Explanation:** “Should” is often used to give advice or recommendations about what someone ought to do.
- **Examples:**
 - You should try this cake; it’s delicious.
 - She should apply for that job; she’s qualified.

2. Expressing Obligation or Duty

- **Explanation:** While “should” can imply obligation, it is generally softer than “must.”
- **Examples:**
 - You should be on time for the meeting.
 - Students should respect their teachers.

3. Expressing Expectation

- **Explanation:** “Should” can be used to express what is expected to happen or what is considered normal.
- **Examples:**
 - The train should arrive at 5 PM.
 - He should be able to finish the project by tomorrow.

4. Making Predictions

- **Explanation:** “Should” can be used to make predictions about future events, though it’s less common than “will.”
- **Examples:**
 - It should rain tomorrow according to the forecast.
 - The new policy should improve productivity.

5. Expressing Surprise or Disapproval

- **Explanation:** “Should” can be used in negative sentences to express surprise or disapproval.

- **Examples:**

- She shouldn't be late; she left early.
- He shouldn't have eaten that; it was spoiled.

Forming Sentences with “Should”

- **Positive Form:** Subject + should + base form of the verb.
 - Example: I should study more.
- **Negative Form:** Subject + should not (shouldn't) + base form of the verb.
 - Example: You shouldn't drive when you're tired.
- **Question Form:** Should + subject + base form of the verb?
 - Example: Should I call him now?

Common Expressions with “Should”

- **Should have** (past advice or regret): Used to talk about past actions that did not happen but would have been a good idea.
 - Example: You should have told me earlier.
- **Should be able to** (ability): Used to express that someone has the capability to do something.
 - Example: She should be able to finish it by next week.

By understanding and using “should” correctly, you can improve your ability to give advice, express obligations, and make predictions in English.