

## Obligation and probability: *should* ★★

(★ = Basic ★★ = Intermediate ★★★ = Advanced)

### Grammar Bite (read this)

For definitions of words in CAPITALS,  
go to [grammarbites.co.uk/definitions](http://grammarbites.co.uk/definitions)

### Worksheet (do this)

We use *should* in these two ways.

#### 1 Obligation: *should* or *should have*

##### To say what we (or someone else) is obliged to do

(like *must* or *have to*, but not so strong: see last week's Grammar Bite)



*I should have brought my umbrella!*

#### 2 Future probability: *should*

##### To say that we believe something will be OK

(It must be something good!)



*Your car should be fine now, Mrs Jones*

#### Note

Imagine degrees of obligation, like this:

0%	75%	100%
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<i>can</i>	<b><i>should</i></b>	<i>must</i>
<i>don't have to</i>	<i>ought to</i>	<i>have to</i>

Imagine degrees of probability, like this:

0%	25%	50%	75%	100%
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<i>won't</i>	<i>might</i>	<i>may</i>	<b><i>should</i></b>	<i>will</i>
			(positive)	

#### Complete each sentence with *should* or *should have*, and also tick the correct box:

- Obligation  Future
- 1 You \_\_\_\_\_ get up earlier if you want to be on time. Obligation  Future
- 2 I \_\_\_\_\_ gone to the shops yesterday; there isn't time today. Obligation  Future
- 3 "I'll come by at seven." "OK, that \_\_\_\_\_ be fine." Obligation  Future
- 4 "I can't find the contract!" "You \_\_\_\_\_ filed it properly." Obligation  Future
- 5 The weather's good, so I think the trip \_\_\_\_\_ be a success. Obligation  Future
- 6 "He didn't pass!" "Well, he \_\_\_\_\_ studied more." Obligation  Future
- 7 "I've given him £50." "Yes, that \_\_\_\_\_ be enough." Obligation  Future
- 8 "You \_\_\_\_\_ waited for me, we could have gone together!" Obligation  Future
- 9 You \_\_\_\_\_ wait for the green man before crossing. Obligation  Future
- 10 "It's six o'clock, he \_\_\_\_\_ be here soon." Obligation  Future

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<sup>1</sup>For DEFINITIONS, go to [www.grammarbites.co.uk/definitions](http://www.grammarbites.co.uk/definitions)