

Should 2

A

You can use **should** after a number of verbs, especially:

demand insist propose recommend suggest

- They **insisted** that we **should** have dinner with them.
- I **demanded** that he **should** apologise.
- What do you **suggest** I **should** do?
- I **insist** that something **should** be done about the problem.

We also say 'It's important/vital/necessary/essential that ... **should** ...':

- It's **essential** that everyone **should** be here on time.

B

You can also leave out **should** in all the sentences in Section A:

- It's **essential** that everyone **be** here on time. (= that everyone **should be** here)
- I **demanded** that he **apologise**. (= that he **should apologise**)
- What do you **suggest** I **do**?
- I **insist** that something **be done** about the problem.

This form (**be/do/have/apologise** etc.) is sometimes called the *subjunctive*. It is the same as the *infinitive* (without **to**).

You can also use normal present and past tenses:

- It's **essential** that everyone **is** here on time.
- I **demanded** that he **apologised**.

After **suggest**, you cannot use **to ...** ('to do / to buy' etc.). You can say:

- What do you **suggest** we **should** do?
- or What do you **suggest** we **do**? (*but not* What do you **suggest** us **to do**?)
- Jane **suggested** that I (**should**) **buy** a car.
- or Jane **suggested** that I **bought** a car. (*but not* Jane **suggested** me **to buy**)

You can also use **-ing** after **suggest**: What do you **suggest doing**? See Unit 53.

C

You can use **should** after a number of adjectives, especially:

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.

D

If ... **should** ...

You can say 'If something **should** happen ...'. For example:

- If Tom **should** phone while I'm out, tell him I'll call him back later.
- 'If Tom **should** phone' is similar to 'If Tom **phones**'. With **should**, the speaker feels that the possibility is smaller. Another example:

- We have no jobs at present. But if the situation **should change**, we'll let you know.

You can also begin these sentences with **should** (Should something happen ...):

- Should** Tom phone, tell him I'll call him back later.

E

You can use **I should ... / I shouldn't ...** to give somebody advice. For example:

- 'Shall I leave now?' 'No, I **should** wait a bit longer.'

Here, **I should wait** = I would wait if I were you, I advise you to wait.

Two more examples:

- 'I'm going out now. Is it cold?' 'Yes, I **should** wear a coat.'
- I **shouldn't** stay up too late. You'll be tired tomorrow.

34.1 Write a sentence (beginning in the way shown) that means the same as the first sentence.

- 1 '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
- 2 'You really must stay a little longer,' she said to me.
She insisted that I
- 3 'Why don't you visit the museum after lunch?' I said to them.
I suggested that
- 4 'You must pay the rent by Friday,' the landlord said to us.
The landlord demanded that
- 5 'Why don't you go away for a few days?' Jack said to me.
Jack suggested that

34.2 Are these sentences right or wrong?

- 1 a Tom suggested that I should look for another job. OK
- b Tom suggested that I look for another job.
- c Tom suggested that I looked for another job.
- d Tom suggested me to look for another job.
- 2 a Where do you suggest I go for my holiday?
- b Where do you suggest me to go for my holiday?
- c Where do you suggest I should go for my holiday?

34.3 Complete the sentences using **should** + the following:

- ask ~~be~~ leave listen say worry
- 1 It's strange that he should be late. He's usually on time.
 - 2 It's funny that you that. I was going to say the same thing.
 - 3 It's only natural that parents about their children.
 - 4 Isn't it typical of Joe that he without saying goodbye to anybody?
 - 5 I was surprised that they me for advice. What advice could I give them?
 - 6 I'm going to give you all some essential information, so it's important that everybody very carefully.

34.4 Use the words in brackets to complete these sentences. Use **If ... should ...**

- 1 I'm going out now. If Tom should phone , tell him I'll call him back this evening.
(Tom / phone)
- 2 I've hung the washing out to dry on the balcony. ,
can you bring the washing in, please? (it / rain)
- 3 I think everything will be OK. any problems,
I'm sure we'll be able to solve them. (there / be)
- 4 I don't want anyone to know where I'm going. ,
just say that you don't know. (anyone / ask)

Write sentences 3 and 4 again, this time beginning with **Should**.

- 5 (3) Should, I'm sure we'll be able to solve them.
- 6 (4), just say that you don't know.

34.5 (Section E) Complete the sentences using **I should** + the following:

- buy keep phone ~~wait~~
- 1 'Shall I leave now?' 'No, I should wait a bit longer.'
 - 2 'Shall I throw these things away?' 'No, them. You may need them.'
 - 3 'Shall I go and see Paul?' 'Yes, but him first.'
 - 4 'Is it worth repairing this TV set?' 'No, a new one.'