

Modal verbs – shall/should

Introduction

1) We use modal verbs to show if we believe something is certain, probable or possible (or not). We also use modals to ask permission, make requests and offers etc.

Modal verbs fall into the category of auxiliary verbs (also known as *helping verbs*). It means that they are used together with a main verb to give grammatical information and additional meaning to a sentence.

2) The modal verb *shall* is mostly used in formal speech and some legal documents. We use the modal verb *shall* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *shall*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

Nowadays, the most common use of *shall* in everyday English is in questions that serve as offers or suggestions (*Shall I? Shall we?*).

***Shall I** order some pizza?*

***Shall we** go now? It's getting late.*

We use the modal verb *should* and *the base form of the verb* to form sentences. Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *should*. Negatives are formed with *not*.

We can use the modal verb *should*:

a) to give advice, a recommendation, or a suggestion.

*I think you **should** study more.*

b) to express that a situation is likely in the present or in the future (a prediction).

*Kelly **should** be at home by now. You can stop by.*

*I ordered some t-shirts 10 days ago. They **should** come in mail this week.*

c) to express an obligation (not as strong as *must*). It is used instead of *must* to make rules, orders or instructions sound more polite.

*You **should** never lie to your parents.*

d) to say that something was expected in the past but didn't happen (in this case, use *should + have + past participle*).

*I **should have studied** more but I was too lazy.*

Short Story Dialogue

– **Shall we go to this new bar?**

– *Yeah, that doesn't sound too bad.*

– **Some band should perform there tonight.**

– *Oh, sounds interesting. **Shall we go now?** I think it might get a bit crowded on a Friday night.*

– **Yeah, we should go now.** I don't want to be somewhere in the back the whole night.

– **Shall I get a taxi?**

– *No, it's fine. It's just a 15 minute walk from us.*

Independent Practice - Modal verbs – shall/should

1) Fill in the gaps with *shall* or *should*.

- a. We go now or we'll miss our train.
- b. I give him a call? He seemed nice.
- c. You pay more attention to your health.
- d. No one disrespect another person's opinion.

2) Match the sentences.

a. Shall I call in sick?	1. I'm not feeling well.
b. You should go to the doctor.	2. The weather is amazing.
c. Shall we go to the park?	3. It might be something serious.

3) Answer the questions.

a. What should we do in case of fire?
b. What shouldn't people do when they are having an argument?
c. What should people do to become happy?

Independent Practice: Answers - Modal verbs – shall/should

1) Fill in the gaps with *shall* or *should*.

- a. We **should** go now or we'll miss our train.
- b. **Shall** I give him a call? He seemed nice.
- c. You **should** pay more attention to your health.
- d. No one **should** disrespect another person's opinion.

2) Match the sentences.

a. Shall I call in sick?	1. I'm not feeling well.
b. You should go to the doctor.	3. It might be something serious.
c. Shall we go to the park?	2. The weather is amazing.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. We should call 911.
- b. They shouldn't call each other names.
- c. People should be themselves to become happy.