

SHOULD + SIMPLE INFINITIVE

and

SHOULD + PERFECT INFINITIVE

(I should do *and* I should have done)

Look at these examples:

1. You **should pay** your debts. (You *ought to pay* your debts; it is your **duty** to pay them.)
2. You **should eat** more fruit. (You *ought to eat* more fruit; it **would be advisable** for you to eat more fruit).

We use SHOULD + SIMPLE INFINITIVE to express **duty** and to indicate what is **advisable**. "Should" + the Simple Infinitive has a present or future meaning. SHOULD is less forceful than MUST or HAVE TO because no authority is involved.

Now look at these examples:

1. Why were you absent yesterday? You **should have attended** the lectures. (You *did not* attend the lectures. You *ought to have* attended them.)
2. We got to the lecture hall too late, and so there were no seats left.
We **should have gone** earlier. (i.e. We didn't go early enough. We ought to have gone earlier.)

We use SHOULD + PERFECT INFINITIVE to express a past unfulfilled duty or to express an advisable action that was not performed.

Exercise 27

Complete the following sentences, using SHOULD/SHOULDN'T followed by the correct form of the infinitive given in parentheses.

1. The Muslim governments (ban) all alcoholic beverages.
2. The patient exceeded the prescribed dose, and so he developed skin rash. He (not exceed) the prescribed dose.
3. This meat isn't well done. You (cook) it longer.
4. We'll miss the bus. We (leave) earlier.
5. The accident was his fault. He (not drive) so quickly.
6. You (ask) the permission of the Dean before you did that.
7. We didn't bring a map with us; that's why we are lost now. We (bring) a map.
8. He wasted his time watching TV and playing football instead of preparing for the quiz; that's why he did very badly on it. He (not waste) his time.