

## SHALL and SHOULD: When Do We Use Them?

This is the fifth lesson in the **modal verbs** or modal **auxiliaries** [series](#).

Today, we are going to talk about **SHALL** and **SHOULD**.

### REMEMBER:

- There are 9 **modal verbs** in English: **Must, Can, Could, May, Might, Will, Would, Shall** and **Should**.
- **Modal verbs** are tools that help us to express modality. In fact, **modals** allow the speaker to express his or her point of view regarding an action, an event or a situation.
- **Modal verbs** always remain the same no matter the subject and cannot be conjugated.

Moreover, they do not have **present** and **past participles**. (I **am** shall**ing** go./ I **have** should**ed** go.)

## MODAL VERB (SHALL)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (FULL FORM)					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
<b>shall</b>					

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)					
I	You	He/She/It	We	You	They
<b>shall not</b> <b>shan't</b>					

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
<b>Shall</b>							
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
<b>go?</b>							



### Step 1: Characteristics of SHALL

- We use **SHALL** in the future tense. (E.g. *I shall be faithful.*)
- A verb stem always follows **SHALL**. (E.g. *He shall **perform** this Saturday.*) The verb stem is also known as the base of a verb. You can find examples of verb stems in the [dictionary](#).
- We do not add **'TO'** after **SHALL**. (E.g. *She shall ~~to~~ come.*)

- **SHALL** is able to replace auxiliary verbs such as **DO** and **BE** which help us to form questions. (E.g. *When shall we go?*)
- In the future tense, **SHALL** can replace **WILL** in the first person singular and plural forms. (E.g. *I shall, you will, he/she/it will, we shall, you will, they will.*) This is mostly used in formal contexts.

## Step 2: Examples of SHALL in the Affirmative Form (+)

### Talking About the Future

Here, **SHALL** is used to **talk about the future**. We use it in the first person singular and plural forms ( E.g. *I shall, we shall*). However, you can also find the other forms (E.g. *you shall, he/she/it shall, they shall*).

- I shall come in October.
- We shall arrive on the 31st of January.
- They shall succeed.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **talk about the future** using **SHALL**.

### Predicting the Future

We use the modal verb **SHALL** to **foretell the future** in a formal way.

- They shall perish.
- He shall become a doctor.
- We shall develop as a nation.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **predict future actions or events** using **SHALL**.

### Declaring Your Intentions

**SHALL** can also be used to say what you **are set out to do** in a resolute and defiant way.

- I shall do it no matter the cost.
- We shall overcome.
- I shall work hard.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **declare your intentions** using **SHALL**.

## Expressing Commands, Orders or Formal Obligations

We can also use **SHALL** to give **instructions** to someone.

- You shall have meals at 1:00 p.m. in the cafeteria.
- Students shall remain silent at all times in the library.
- Books shall be returned without delay.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you give an **order** using **SHALL**.

## Expressing Strong Possibility in the Future

**SHALL + HAVE-EN/ED (Present Perfect)** can be used in the **Future Perfect tense**. This is when we talk about a completed action in the future. In this case, **SHALL** expresses **strong possibility**.

- I shall have arrived by then.
- The train shall have left.
- In June, I shall have studied English for five years.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express strong possibility in the future** using **SHALL**.

## Making Solemn Promises

In this instance, we use **SHALL** to tell someone in a **very serious and formal** way that we are **committed to do something**.

- I shall inform you of any changes to the contract.
- We shall contact you as soon as we receive the news.
- I shall marry you.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you make a **solemn promise** to someone using **SHALL**.

## Step 3: Examples of SHALL in the Negative Form (-)

### Talking About the Future

Here, **SHALL + NOT** is used to **talk about what will not happen in the future**. We use it in the first person singular and plural forms ( E.g. I shall, we shall).

- I shall not come in October.

- We shan't arrive late.
- They shall not stay with us.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **talk about what will not happen in the future** using **SHALL + NOT**.

### Predicting the Future

We use the modal verb **SHALL** to **foretell what will not happen in the future** in a formal way.

- They shall not perish.
- He shall not become a doctor.
- We shan't develop as a nation.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **predict what will not happen in the future** using **SHALL + NOT**.

### Declaring Intentions

**SHALL + NOT** can also be used to say what you **are not set out to do** in a resolute and defiant way.

- I shall not do it no matter the cost.
- We shan't succeed, for sure.
- I shall not sit for those exams.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **declare your intentions** using **SHALL + NOT**.

### Expressing Prohibition

We can also use **SHALL** to **give instructions** to someone **regarding what** he or she cannot do.

- You shall not loiter near the headmaster's office.
- Students shall not arrive late at school.
- Employees shall not use the internet for recreational purposes.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you give an order using **SHALL + NOT**.

### Expressing Strong Impossibility in the Future

**SHALL + NOT** can be used in the **Future Perfect tense**. This is when we talk about a completed action in the future. In this case, **SHALL** expresses **strong impossibility**.

- I shall not have arrived by then.
- The train shall not have left.
- In June, I shall not have finished my studies.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **express strong impossibility in the future** using **SHALL + NOT**.

### Refusing to Do Something in a Solemn Way

In this instance, we use **SHALL + NOT** to tell someone in a **very serious and formal** way that we **do not want to do something**.

- I shall not marry you.
- We shall not sign the contract.
- I shall not see you.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you tell someone in a very solemn or formal way that you **do not want to do something** using **SHALL + NOT**.

## Step 4: Examples of SHALL in the Interrogative Form(?)

### Making Offers

We use **SHALL** to **present something or a service to someone**.

- Shall I escort you?
- Shall we lend you a hand?
- Let's have a cup of coffee, shall we?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **presents something or a service to someone** using **SHALL**.

### Making Suggestions

We can use **SHALL** to **present an idea to someone** so that he or she can consider acting upon it.

- Madam, shall we use this way?
- Shall I serve dinner now?

- Shall we go to my favourite restaurant?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **suggests an idea to someone** using **SHALL**.

### Asking for Advice or Instructions

It is also possible to use **SHALL** to **ask someone for guidance**.

- How shall we proceed?
- What shall be the course of action?
- How shall we go?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **asks for advice from someone** using **SHALL**.

### Asking for Information

Sometimes, we can use **SHALL** to **ask for information from someone** in a formal way.

- When shall the ceremony take place?
- Who shall come with you?
- Where shall we settle?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **asks for information** in a formal way using **SHALL**.

## MODAL VERB (SHOULD)

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<b>go?</b>							



## Step 5: Characteristics of SHOULD

- We use **SHOULD** as the past tense of **SHALL**. (E.g. *He told me that we should be careful.*) Note that **SHOULD** is also used in the present when expressing modality (E.g. *We should be more careful now.*)
- We also use **SHOULD** in [second conditionals](#). (E.g. *If I were you, I should call a policeman.*) This past form of **SHALL** is also called the unreal past because it refers to an unreal or hypothetical situation. However, note that the action '*call a policeman*' will happen in the **future**.
- A verb stem always follows **SHOULD**. (E.g. *He should become a singer.*) The verb stem is also known as the base of a verb. You can find examples of verb stems in the [dictionary](#).)
- We do not add '**TO**' after **SHOULD**. (E.g. *She should ~~to~~ try this.*)
- **SHOULD** is able to replace auxiliary verbs such as **DO** and **BE** which help us to form questions. (E.g. *Where should she go?*)

## Step 6: Examples of SHOULD in the Affirmative Form (+)

### Offering Advice or Giving a Strong Recommendation

This is the most common use of **SHOULD**. In fact, when we use **SHOULD** in this sense, we are trying to **give someone guidance** and we are taking full responsibility of this.

- You should eat less junk food.
- I think they should study more.
- She should be more respectful.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **gives advice to someone** using **SHOULD**.

### Expressing Obligation and Necessity

This is when we use **SHOULD** to show that **someone has to do something or behave in a certain way**.

We can replace **SHOULD** here with the [semi-modal](#) **OUGHT TO**.

- Children should wash the dishes after every meal.
- Visitors should be quiet at all times.

- We should be more respectful towards our educators.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences to describe in which the subject **expresses necessity or obligation** using **SHOULD**.

### Expressing Possibility in the Future in First Conditionals

In this instance, we use **SHOULD** to talk about **hypothetical** or unreal situations that are **possible in the future**.

- If you should pass these exams, I will be very happy.
- Should you succeed, we will celebrate together.
- If he should come home, I'll be waiting for him.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **possibility in the future in First Conditionals** using **SHOULD**.

### Expressing Probability in the Future in Second Conditional Sentences

In this case, we use **SHOULD** to say that something is **likely to happen** in the future **after the realisation of another action or event**.

- If they were rich, they should probably buy a house.
- I should probably move to the city if I won the lottery.
- If he won, she should congratulate him.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **probability in the future in Second Conditionals** using **SHOULD**.

### Reported Speech

We use **SHOULD** to report what someone has said to someone else. We also talk of indirect speech.

- He said he should come in October. (**Direct Speech:** *I shall come in October.*)
- They insisted that we should write the article no matter the consequences. (**Direct Speech:** *You shall write the article no matter the consequences.*)
- You mentioned that the state president should visit us today. (**Direct Speech:** *The state president shall visit you today.*)



**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **report what someone has just said** using **SHOULD**.

## **Step 7: Examples of SHOULD in the Negative Form (-)**

### **Offering Advice**

In this case, we use **SHOULD + NOT** to **convince someone not do something or not to behave in a certain way**.

- You should not eat junk food.
- I think they shouldn't be so rude.
- She should not be tyrannical.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences to describe in which the subject tries to **convince someone not to do something or not behave in a certain way** using **SHOULD + NOT**.

### **Expressing Prohibition**

In , we use **SHOULD + NOT** to say that someone **cannot do something**.

- Visitors shouldn't leave their bicycles here.
- Children shouldn't watch TV all day long.
- You shouldn't talk to me like that.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences to describe in which the subject **expresses prohibition** using **SHOULD + NOT**.

### **Expressing Criticism**

In this instance, we use **SHOULD + NOT + (HAVE-EN/ED (Present Perfect))** to **express disapproval** towards someone or something.

- You shouldn't have done it.
- He shouldn't have called me.
- Things shouldn't be this way.

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you express **criticism towards someone or a situation** using **SHOULD + NOT + (HAVE-EN/ED (Present Perfect))**.

## Reported Speech

We use **SHOULD + NOT** to report what someone has said to someone in the **negative form**. We also talk of indirect speech.

- He said he shouldn't come in October. (**Direct Speech:** *I shall not come in October.*)
- They insisted that we shouldn't write the article no matter the consequences. (**Direct Speech:** *You shall not write the article no matter the consequences.*)
- You mentioned that the state president shouldn't visit us today. (**Direct Speech:** *The state president shall not visit you today.*)

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **report what someone has just said in the negative form** using **SHOULD + NOT**.

## Step 8: Examples of SHOULD in the Interrogative Form(?)

### Making Requests About Obligation

We can use **SHOULD** to **ask** someone **if we are obliged to do something**.

- Should I close the door behind me?
- Sir, should we enter?
- Should I call him?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the subject **asks someone if he or she is obliged to do something**.

### Asking for Advice

In this case, we use **SHOULD** to **ask for a recommendation about someone, something or a course of action**.

- What should I do?
- Whom should I call?
- Where should I go?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which the **subject asks for advice** using **SHOULD**.

## Asking questions in Conditional Sentences

In this case, we use **SHOULD** to form **WH-** in hypothetical or unreal situations.

- Who should be notified if you fall sick?
- What should happen if he shows up?
- How should we behave if the president visits our school?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **ask questions** using **SHOULD** in an **unreal situation**.

## Making Subtle Suggestions

**SHOULD** is a **tactful yet disapproving way of presenting an idea to someone**. It also calls upon personal responsibility.

- Jane, shouldn't you be going to bed now?
- Shouldn't we be listening to the teacher?
- Excuse me, shouldn't Charles be sitting down instead of jumping all over the place?

**Your Turn:** Make 3 sentences in which you **suggest an idea to someone** in a subtle, yet disapproving way, using **SHOULD**.



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