

Prepare for {IELTS}

Video Lessons





GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

Advice and suggestions

USING MODAL VERBS

EXPLANATION

- There are many ways to give **ADVICE** and **SUGGESTIONS**.
- You can impress the IELTS examiner by using a range of structures in the Speaking and Writing Tests.
- You will hear **ADVICE** and **SUGGESTIONS** in the IELTS Listening Test.
- You will sometimes see **SUGGESTIONS** and **ADVICE** in the Reading Test, especially in the IELTS General Test.
- We can use several **modal verbs** to give **ADVICE** and **SUGGESTIONS**.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use **must**, **need to**, **ought to**, **should** and **could to give suggestions and to indicate good ideas:**

- **As a society, we must start / need to start taking the issue of domestic abuse seriously.**
- **We must do something about the problem of obesity.**
- **The government should invest more in education.**
- **We all should be aware of the consequences of excessive alcohol use.**
- **The police ought to catch a higher proportion of criminals, and the courts definitely should convict more of them.**
- **As a society, we ought to care more for our elderly.**
- **We could do a lot more to help the unemployed and the disabled.**

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use must, ought to and should in negative forms:

- We **must not** allow racists to succeed in spreading hatred.
- You absolutely **must not** start talking to him. You'll never get away!
- We **should not** allow ourselves to be persuaded by advertisements.
- Teachers **should not** treat their pupils with a lack of respect.
- People **ought not** to drink alcohol or swear in public.
- You **ought not** to drive so fast. You could have an accident.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use **must**, **need to**, **ought to** and **should** in passive forms:

- The issue of animal welfare **must be taken / needs to be taken** more seriously.
- The problems facing asylum-seekers **must not be ignored**.
- Youngsters who misbehave **should clearly be told to change the way they act**.
- Illegal activity **should not be tolerated under any circumstances**.
- Parents **ought to be told to look after their children properly**.
- Drivers **ought not to be allowed to use their phones whilst behind the wheel of a moving vehicle**.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use **ought to** and **should** with a continuous form to describe the right thing to do at a specific/particular moment or during a temporary time period:

- Many of us take smartphones to bed and send texts and emails when we **should be sleeping**.
- We **should** all **be doing more** to tackle racism.
- You **ought to be working harder** on your dissertation. You'll never finish it!
- We live in a complex world. Teachers **ought to be helping** their students to understand it, instead of just making sure they pass tests.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use ought to and should to describe a good idea in the past. We often use these forms to express regret/sadness that something did not happen in the past:

- You should have listened more carefully to the instructions. You wouldn't have failed the exam if you had.
- We should not have used up so many of the planet's natural resources over the past few decades.
- In my view, fast-food outlets should not have had the opportunity to open branches near schools. Allowing hamburger restaurants to open so close to where children are studying has just encouraged youngsters to eat more junk-food.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use **ought to** and **should to** describe a good idea in the past. We often use these forms to express regret/sadness that something did not happen in the past:

- I **ought to have packed** my sun-glasses and hat. I didn't realise it was going to be so hot.
- Instead of building up its military strength in the 1980s, the country **ought to have invested** in infrastructure and social spending.
- You **ought to have visited** your sister when she was in hospital.
- I **ought not to have eaten** so much last night. I'm feeling bloated!
- We **ought not to have spent** so much money on luxuries recently.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use ought (not) to have been and should (not) have been as a passive form to describe a good idea in the past:

- The complaints made in the past by so-called ‘whistle-blowers’ should have been listened to by the government.
- Following last year’s demonstrations against the government, protesters should not have been put in prison. They were merely peacefully expressing their non-violent views.
- The law on possession of marijuana ought to have been changed by those in power.
- I’m really sorry you saw what happened. You ought not to have been shown.

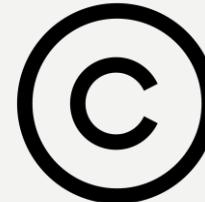
ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING MODALS

We can use **need to** to describe a very strong suggestion:

- Police officers and those in the legal system **need to treat** suspects as innocent until they are proven guilty.
- **Something needs to be done** to tackle anti-social behaviour in our cities. (This is a passive form)

We can use **could** to describe a very weak suggestion:

- **We could ask** teachers to re-train so that they would be able to use technology more effectively in the classroom.
- **Money which the government spends on bureaucracy could be** better **spent** on schools and hospitals. (This is a passive form)



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OTHER STRUCTURES

EXPLANATION

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- You can impress the IELTS examiner by using a range of structures in the Speaking and Writing Tests.
- You will hear **ADVICE** and **SUGGESTIONS** in the IELTS Listening Test
- You will sometimes see **SUGGESTIONS** and **ADVICE** in the Reading Test, especially in the IELTS General Test.
- We can use several **other structures** to give **ADVICE** and **SUGGESTIONS**.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING OTHER STRUCTURES

There are some more informal structures we can use:

- You had better be / You'd better be careful if you visit that country.
I've heard it's dangerous.
- You'd better stop worrying about what happened.
- If I were you, I'd just resign.
- If I were you, I might look for somewhere else to live.
- Why don't you go to university and get a decent qualification?
- Why don't you give up smoking? It's killing you!
- Why don't we organise a surprise party?
- Why don't you stop talking, and listen instead?

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING OTHER STRUCTURES

There are some more informal structures we can use:

- **It's time you bought** some new shoes. There's a hole in that one!
- **It's time you started** doing a bit more exercise. You're out of shape!
- **Let's meet** outside the museum!
- **Let's not say** anything about the party!
- **Shall we visit** Miami while we're in America?
- **Shall we join** the choir. It sounds like fun!
- **What about booking** a taxi from the airport?
- **What about asking** Jaime to come with us?

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING OTHER STRUCTURES

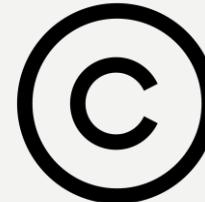
There are more structures we can use:

- I **advise you to think** about buying your own house.
- He **advised me to spend** less time online.
- I **would advise you to look** for a new boyfriend.
- I **would advise you to open** your own business.
- You **might as well sell** that car.
- He **might as well stop** trying.
- We **may as well go home**.
- They **may as well retire**.

ADVICE AND SUGGESTIONS USING OTHER STRUCTURES

The verbs **to suggest** and **to propose** can be used in a more formal way:

- I **propose/suggest** changing our marketing strategy.
- I **propose/suggest** that we radically re-think the way we work here.
- I **propose/suggest** that a new charity should be set up.
- The manager **proposed/suggested** that we should close the office.
- I **propose/suggest** that the situation be re-assessed in a few weeks' time.



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PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercise

The following sentences express the idea of a suggestion or advice. Try to complete each sentence:

1. We **m**_____ do something about the problem of overcrowding in our major cities
2. We **sh**_____ definitely invest more in healthcare and care for the elderly.
3. We **o**_____ **t**_____ care more about vulnerable animal and plant species.
4. We **m**_____ **n**_____ allow racism to go unchallenged.
5. You **o**_____ **n**_____ **t**_____ drink alcohol if you are thinking of driving today.
6. We **s**_____ **n**_____ treat disabled pupils any differently from those who are able-bodied.

ANSWERS

- We **must** do something about the problem of overcrowding in our major cities
- 1. We **should** definitely invest more in healthcare and care for the elderly.
- 2. We **ought to** care more about vulnerable animal and plant species.
- 3. We **must not** allow racism to go unchallenged.
- 4. You **ought not to** drink alcohol if you are thinking of driving today.
- 5. We **should not** treat disabled pupils any differently from those who are able-bodied.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The following sentences express the idea of a suggestion or advice. Try to complete each sentence:

1. The issue of discrimination in the workplace **m_____ b_____** taken more seriously.
2. Motorists **o_____ n_____ t_____** be allowed to use their phones while driving.
3. We **sh_____** all **b_____** doing more to protect our environment.
4. You **sh_____ h_____** listened more carefully to the instructions. It's your own fault that you don't know what to do.
5. You **o_____ t_____ h_____** visited your sister when she was in hospital. It was wrong of you not to go at least once.
6. I **sh_____ h_____** worked for a company which produces cigarettes. I really regret it now.

ANSWERS

1. The issue of discrimination in the workplace **must be** taken more seriously.
2. Motorists **ought not to** be allowed to use their phones while driving.
3. We **should** all **be** doing more to protect our environment.
4. You **should have** listened more carefully to the instructions. It's your own fault that you don't know what to do.
5. You **ought to have** visited your sister when she was in hospital. It was wrong of you not to go at least once.
6. I **shouldn't have** worked for a company which produces cigarettes. I really regret it now.

PREPARE for IELTS: Grammar Exercises

The following sentences express the idea of a suggestion or advice. Try to complete each sentence:

1. You **h**_____ **b**_____ **b**_____ careful. If you come to work late again this month the company is going to fire you.
2. If I **w**_____ you, I **w**_____ eat less fatty food.
3. **W**_____ **d**_____ you join a gym and start doing exercise?
4. It's really **t**_____ you bought some new shoes. The ones you are wearing look awful.
5. **Sh**_____ we organise a party at the weekend? It would be fun!
6. **W**_____ **a**_____ asking your parents to come for dinner on Sunday? They'd be really pleased.
7. I **ad**_____ you to think very carefully about your future behaviour.
8. You **mi**_____ **a**_____ **w**_____ tell me the truth. I'm going to find out soon anyway.
9. **I su**_____ that we radically re-think the way we work in this office.
10. I **pr**_____ that the situation be re-assessed in a few months.

ANSWERS

1. You **had better be** careful. If you come to work late again this month the company is going to fire you.
2. If I **were** you, I **would** eat less fatty food.
3. **Why don't** you join a gym and start doing exercise?
4. It's really **time** you bought some new shoes. The ones you are wearing look awful.
5. **Shall** we organise a party at the weekend? It **would** be fun!
6. **What about** asking your parents to come for dinner on Sunday? They'd be really pleased.
7. I **advise** you to think very carefully about your future behaviour.
8. You **might as well** tell me the truth. I'm going to find out soon anyway.
9. I **suggest** that we radically re-think the way we work in this office.
10. I **propose** that the situation be re-assessed in a few months.