

Prepare for {IELTS}

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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

## **Advice and suggestions** USING MODAL VERBS

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# 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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# GRAMMAR FOR IELTS

**Advice and suggestions**

**OTHER STRUCTURES**

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# 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 **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.