

# 67 *should, ought to, must*



## 1 *should, ought to*

*Should* and *ought to* are modal verbs.

Modal verb form ► Unit 61.1

We use *should* and *ought to* to say we think it is a good idea to do something:

*The sun is very strong – you **should wear** a hat.*

*You **ought to find out** how much it costs.*

We can ask for advice with *should*:

***Should I buy** the red dress or the blue one?*

We use *shouldn't* to say we think it is a bad or dangerous idea to do something:

*You **shouldn't eat** a lot of cakes; they make you fat.*

*You **shouldn't sit** outside in the sun at midday.*



Don't use *to* after *should* or *shouldn't*:

✗ *Everyone ~~should to~~ learn another language.*

✓ *Everyone **should learn** another language.*

When we are speaking, we often say *I (don't) think + should/ought to* and

*do you think + should/ought to*:

***We think you should study** maths at university.*

*It's too dangerous. **I don't think you should** do it.*

***Do you think we ought to** get a digital TV?*

**NATURAL ENGLISH** *Should* is more common than *ought to*. We usually say *you shouldn't* and *should I ... ?* (not *you oughtn't to* or *ought I ... ?*).

## 2 *must*

We can use (*really*) *must* to give strong advice or to recommend something.

It is stronger than *should* or *ought to*:

*You **really must try** snowboarding. It's great fun!*

*We **must see** the new Harry Potter film. Everyone says it's great.*

*must/mustn't* ► Unit 65