

## Modals of Advice

Common modals of advice in English are should, ought to, and had better. Read on for the differences in meaning and usage!

### Should

Using the modal of advice should is the most common way to suggest something to someone in English. The pattern is “should + base verb” The negative form, “should not”, often gets contracted to “shouldn’t”.

- You **should tell** your boss about the report.
- They **should start** getting ready to go because the bus leaves at 4:00.
- She **shouldn’t smoke** outside because people are eating on the patio nearby.

### Modal Verb Could

“Could” is one of the most commonly known modal verbs. It is used to show past abilities, possibilities, requests, etc. To put it simply, “could” is the past tense of modal verb “can” For instance:

- **Could** you open the window?
- I **could** stay up all night back then.

### Similarities

We use '**could**' and '**should**' to give advice.

'**Could**' is used to express our disapproval of something that has already happened in the past.

'**Should**' is used to express our thoughts on an event that may be happening now or will happen in the future.

Take a look at the following examples:

- You **could** study more so you wouldn't fail.
- You **should** study more so you wouldn't fail.