Should 2

A

You can use **should** after:

insist   recommend   suggest   demand   propose

- ☐ I **insisted** that he **should apologise**.
- ☐ Doctors **recommend** that everyone **should eat** plenty of fruit.
- ☐ What do you **suggest** we **should do**?
- ☐ Many people are **demanding** that something **should be done** about the problem.

also

It's important/vital/necessary/essential that ... **should** ... :
- ☐ **It's essential** that everyone **should be** here on time.

B

You can also leave out **should** in the sentences in section A. So you can say:
- ☐ **It's essential** that everyone **be** here on time.   (= ... that everyone **should be** here)
- ☐ I **insisted** that he **apologise**.   (= ... that he **should apologise**)
- ☐ What do you **suggest** we **do**?
- ☐ Many people are **demanding** that something **be done** about the problem.

This form (**be/do/apologise** etc.) is called the *subjunctive*. It is the same as the *infinitive* (without **to**).
You can also use normal present and past tenses:
- ☐ **It's essential** that everyone **is** here on time.
- ☐ I **insisted** that he **apologised**.

C

After **suggest**, you cannot use **to** ... ('to do / to buy' etc.). You can say:
- ☐ What do you **suggest** we **should do**?
- *or* What do you **suggest** we **do**?   (*but not* What do you suggest us to do?)
- ☐ Jane won the lottery.
  I **suggested** that she **should buy** a car with the money she'd won.
- *or* I **suggested** that she **buy** a car.
- *or* I **suggested** that she **bought** a car.   (*but not* I suggested her to buy)

You can also use **-ing** after **suggest** (What do you **suggest doing**?). See Unit 53.

D

You can use **should** after a number of adjectives, especially:

strange   odd   funny   typical   natural   interesting   surprised   surprising

- ☐ It's **strange** that he **should be** late. He's usually on time.
- ☐ I was **surprised** that he **should say** such a thing.

E

You can say '**If** something **should** happen ...'. For example:
- ☐ We have no jobs at present, but **if** the situation **should change**, we will contact you.

You can also begin with **should** (**Should** something happen ...):
- ☐ **Should** the situation **change**, we will contact you.

This means the same as '**If** the situation **changes**, ...'. With **should**, the speaker feels that the possibility is smaller.

F

You can use **I should** ... / **I shouldn't** ... to give somebody advice. For example:
- ☐ 'Shall I leave now?' 'No, **I should wait** a bit.'

Here, **I should wait** = I would wait if I were you, I advise you to wait.
More examples:
- ☐ 'I'm going out now. Is it cold out?' 'Yes, **I should wear** a coat.'
- ☐ **I shouldn't stay** up too late. You have to be up early tomorrow.

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