

GRAMMAR

Should and could

LEVEL

Beginner (A1)

NUMBER

EN_A1_2063G

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can differentiate between the use of 'could' and 'should'.
- I can give simple suggestions using 'could' and 'should'.



I could, but I don't know
if **I should**!





Using *should*

- *Should* is used to talk about **opinions** or **give advice**.
- You can make *should* negative by adding *not*, to become *shouldn't*

Positive

I should do my homework.

You should eat your vegetables.

They should write a letter.

Negative

I shouldn't do my homework.

You shouldn't eat your vegetables.

They shouldn't write a letter.



Fill in the gaps

Fill in the gaps with *should*,
shouldn't, *can* or *could*.



It's really cold. It
_____ snow!



_____ I wear
suncream today?



We _____ go to
the beach if you want.



You _____ go
outside today. It's
stormy!



Dialogue

Fill in the gaps using the words in the boxes.



Rob

I have a small injury. _____ I please make a doctor's appointment?

Yes, I _____ help you with that. Is Tuesday alright?



Angie



Rob

No, I _____ come on Tuesday.

No problem. _____ you come on Thursday instead?



Angie

Can

Could

can't

can



Dialogue



Rob

Yes, that is perfect. _____ I bring anything with me?

_____, that isn't necessary.



Angie



Rob

Great. _____ very much!

Thank you

No

Should



Using *could*

- *Could* is the past form of *can*. We use ***could* + verb** to talk about abilities in the past.
- Make *could* negative by adding *not* to make *couldn't*

Present

I **can** play the guitar.

You **can't** speak English.

She **can't** ride a bike.

Past

I **could** play the guitar when I was younger.

You **couldn't** speak English last year.

She **couldn't** ride a bike two days ago.



Can and could



When I was a child, I **couldn't** write. Now I **can** write and I do it nearly every day.



Can and could



When I was young, I **couldn't** read. Now I **can** read anything I want.



Can and could



As a child I **couldn't** play the guitar. I spent all my time playing video games. I still **can't** play the guitar. My friends say I **should** really take some lessons!



I **can't wait** to see my friends next week!

We use **can't wait** to talk about something we are excited about.



Match the sentences

1 I can't hear you.

2 She can play football.

3 We can't eat meat.

4 They can speak Italian.

5 He can swim.

a She could play football.

b They could speak Italian.

c We couldn't eat meat.

d He could swim.

e I couldn't hear you.



Multiple choice

1 When I was a baby, I _____ speak.

a. can't

b. couldn't

2 My doctor says I _____ work today.

a. can't

b. am

3 I can play basketball, but I _____ play the guitar.

a. could

b. can't

4 I have an injury, so I _____ play football.

a. can

b. can't

5 When I was younger, I _____ run far.

a. can

b. could



Give advice

Give some advice using **could** or **should** for each of these problems.
Work in breakout rooms or together as a class.

1 I am so late for work!

2 I have a really bad cold.

3 I want to learn Italian.

4 My exams are soon.

5 I'm always really tired in the morning.





Match the sentences

1 Could you...

2 Could...

3 I couldn't...

4 I shouldn't...

5 Should I...

a I come with you?

b wear a jacket today?

c eat too much ice cream before dinner.

d please help me?

e drive a car when I was a child.



Answer the questions

Use *shouldn't* or *can't* to answer the questions.

1 Should I stay at home today?



No, you shouldn't stay at home today.

2 Can you play football?



3 Can you help me?



4 Should you be here?



5 Can I see you?



6 Should we go to the cinema?





Fill in the blanks

Last year, I had an injury and _____ walk.
My doctor told me I _____ stay in bed and
that I _____ run for three months. Now that
I am better, I _____ run even faster!



can

should

couldn't

shouldn't



Two truths and a lie

Think of two things that **you could or couldn't do when you were a child**, and make up another that is **not true**. Your partner has to guess which is the lie!



I could swim when I was a child.

Hmm...



I couldn't speak English when I was a child.

That's probably true.



I could ride a bike when I was a child.

I'm not sure. How old?



End of the lesson

Idiom

to be all ears

Meaning: waiting excitedly to hear about something

Example: Tell me everything! I'm all ears.



Additional practice



Match the sentences

1 When I was one year old, I couldn't talk.

2 I really want to buy this expensive dress for myself.

3 She can only speak German and English.

4 You have the flu today.

5 His leg hurts.

a But I really should save my money.

b She can't speak Italian.

c He shouldn't play rugby today.

d Now, I can speak five languages!

e You should stay home.



Match the advice to the pictures



1



2



3



4



5



6



a He shouldn't worry so much.

b He should go to the doctor's.

c He should eat more healthy food.

d He should go to bed earlier.

e She shouldn't text while driving.

f He should relax.





What can you do?

Which of the things in the boxes can you do? Could you do any of them when you were a child?



ride a bike

ski

play poker

speak three
languages

run ten
kilometres

do yoga

ice skate

drive a car

cook



Write a list of four things you can't do but you want to. Tell a partner and they will give you advice.

I can't speak German.
"You should take lessons."





Answer key

P.5: could, should, can, shouldn't

P.6: Could, can, can't, Can, Should, No, Thank you

P.13: 1) e, 2) a, 3) b, 4) b, 5) d

P.14: 1) b, 2) a, 3) b, 4) b, 5) b

P.16: 1) d, 2) a, 3) e, 4) c, 5) b

P.17: 2) No, I can't play football. 3) No, I can't help you. 4) No, you shouldn't be here. 5) No, you can't see me. 6) No, you shouldn't go to the cinema.



Answer key



P.23: 1) d, 2) a, 3) b, 4) e, 5) c

P.24: 1) d, 2) b, 3) f, 4) e, 5) c, 6) a



Summary

Using *should*:

- *Should* is used to talk about **opinions** or **give advice**.
- You can make *should* negative by adding *not*, to become *shouldn't*
- *You should go to the doctor's. You shouldn't go to work today.*

Using *could*:

- *Could* is the past form of *can*. We use **could + verb** to talk about abilities in the past.
- Make *could* negative by adding *not* to make *couldn't*
- *I could read when I was seven. I couldn't drive when I was a child.*



Vocabulary

should

could

guitar

video games

meat

Italian

soon

