

Should and could

GRAMMAR

LEVEL
Beginner

NUMBER
EN_BE_1237G

LANGUAGE
English

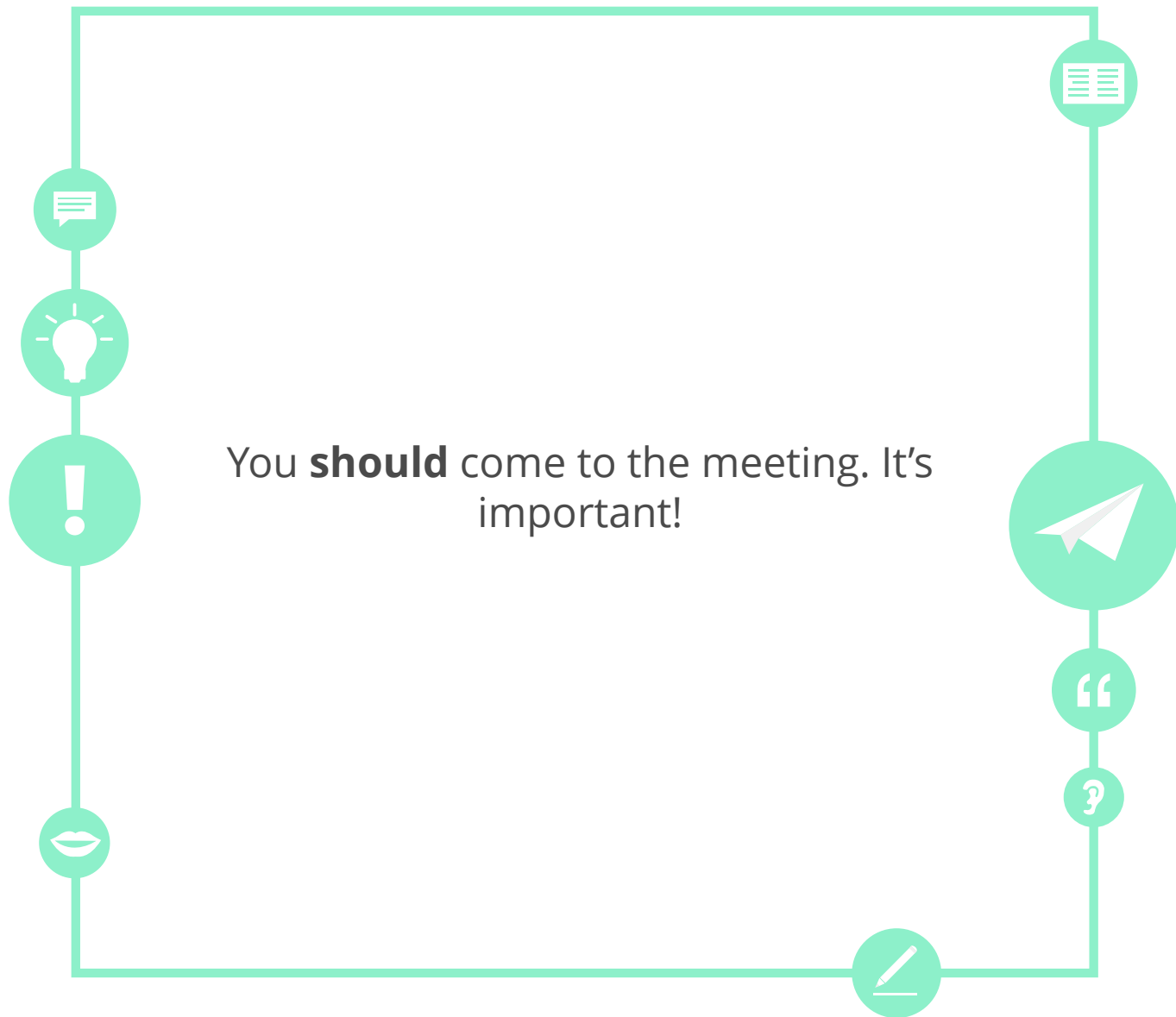




Goals

- Can read a short text and understand some basic uses of the modal verbs should and could
- Can form own simple sentences using should and could when talking about possibilities with colleagues







Preview and warm-up

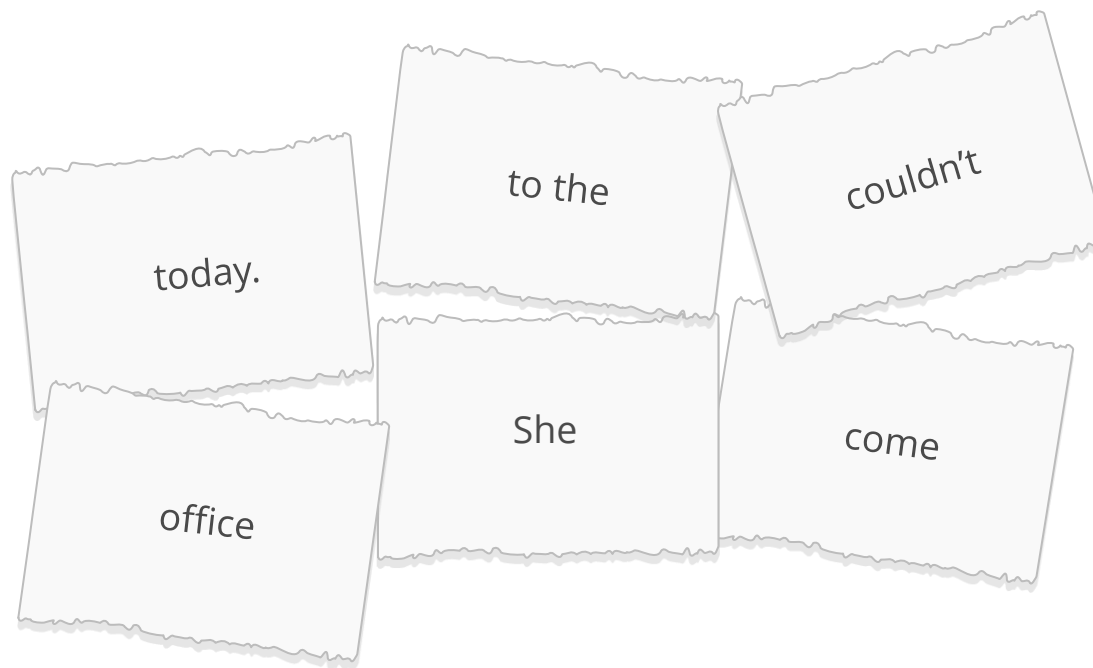
- In this lesson, you will learn the modals **should** and **could** and their uses.



Could you tell me what the problem is?



Unscramble to make a sentence





Using *should*

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

Positive	Negative
I should write this email now.	I shouldn't write this email now.
You should go to the office today.	You shouldn't go to the office.
They should talk to their boss today.	They shouldn't talk to their boss today.



Asking questions with *could* and *should*

- In questions, *could* and *should* come first, followed by the pronoun.
- Asking questions with *could* is a way to be polite. Often, we add *please* after the pronoun.

Could	we	meet for lunch?
Should	I	send it via email?
Could	you	please help me?
Should	he	answer the call?



Could as a possibility in the future



Could is also used to express a possibility or uncertainty **about the future**. It is used when we are talking about something that **may** or **may not** happen.

Possibility	Possibility with could
Maybe it will rain tomorrow.	It could rain tomorrow.
I might get the job.	I could get the job.
We may see him at the meeting.	We could see him at the meeting.



Complete the dialogue



couldn't

could

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

can't

can

No, I _____ come on Tuesday.

should

will

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

Thank you

Can't you

Great. _____ very much!

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

No problem. _____ you come
on Thursday instead?

_____, that isn't necessary.

should

can

can

are

yes

no



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	Past
I can hear you.	I could hear you.
You can't speak English.	You couldn't speak English last year.
She can't come to the meeting.	She couldn't come to the meeting.



When I was...



When I was a child I **couldn't** write.



Now I **can** write and I do it nearly every day!



When I was...



When I was young I **couldn't** read.



Now I **can** read anything I want!



When I was...



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!



Match the sentences to their past form

1. I can't hear you.

a. We couldn't come to the office.

2. She can understand you.

b. They could hear him.

3. We can't come to the office.

c. She could understand you.

4. They can hear him.

d. I couldn't hear you.



Complete the sentence

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 have an injury, so I _____ play football.

a. can't

b. can

4. I can come to this meeting, but I _____ stay late.

a. can

b. can't



You should/could...

**Your colleague Lisa always needs advice.
Help her out and use *could* or *should* to respond to each statement.**

1. I am so late for work!
2. I have a really bad cold.
3. I would love to learn Italian.
4. My exams are soon.
5. I am always so tired in the morning.



Complete the sentence

1. Could you...

a. I come with you?

2. Should...

b. eat too much ice cream.

3. I shouldn't...

c. drive a car when I was a child.

4. I couldn't...

d. please help me?



Answer the questions using *can't* or *shouldn't*

1. Should I stay at home today?



No, you shouldn't stay at home today.

2. Can you meet me at 1pm?



3. Can you help me?



4. Should you be here?



5. Can I see you?





Complete the text

Last year, I had an injury and _____ move my arm. My doctor told me I _____ stay off work and that I _____ use my arm for anything for three months. Now that I am better, I _____ do everything again!



can

should

couldn't

shouldn't



Two truths and a lie

When I was young
I could run really
fast!

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



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p. 5

She couldn't find a good book.

Exercise p. 9

could, can, can't, can, should, no,
thank you

Exercise p. 14

1d, 2c, 3a, 4b

Exercise p. 15

1b, 2a, 3a, 4b

Exercise p. 17

1d, 2a, 3b, 4c

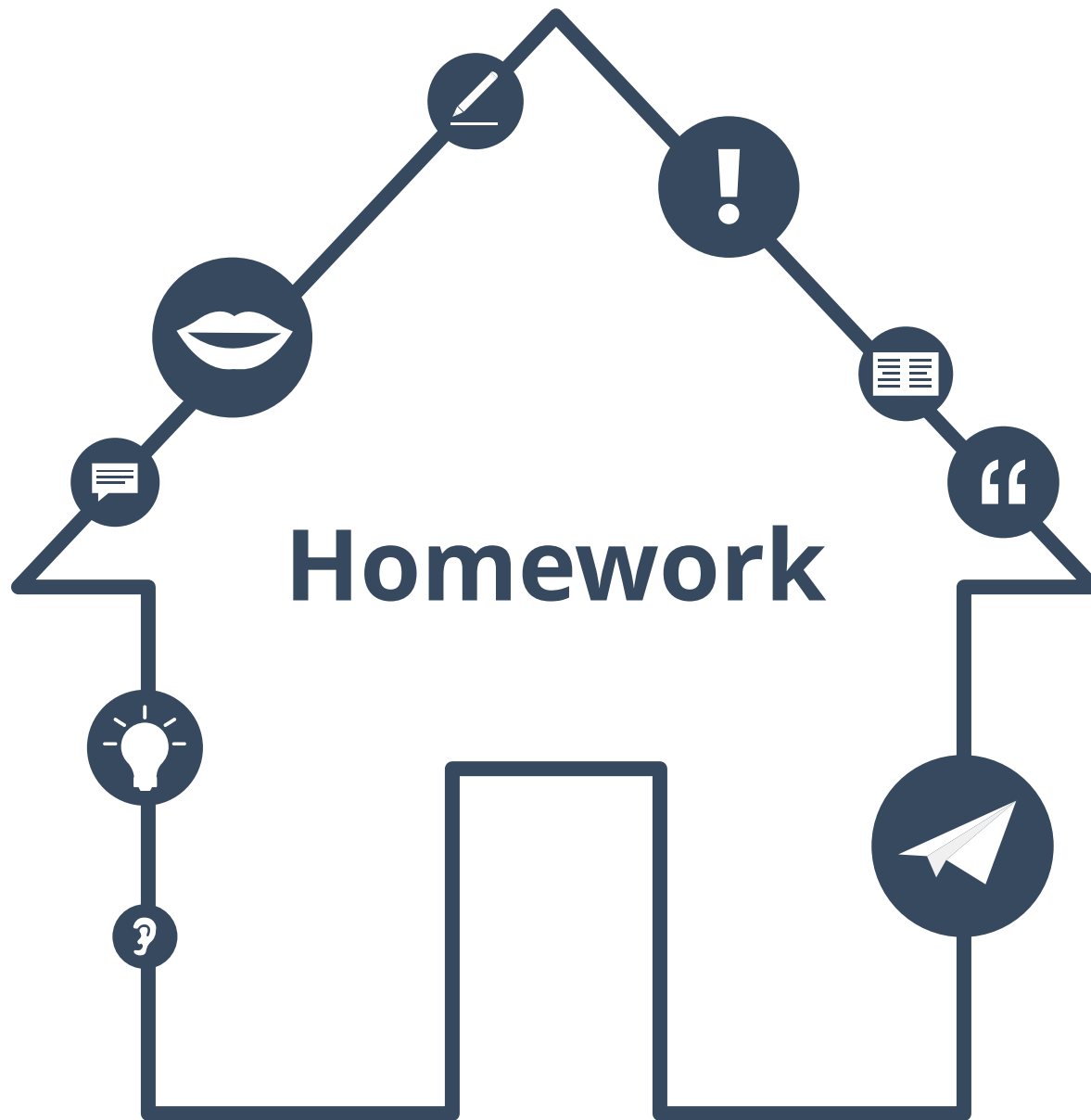
Exercise p. 18

2. No, I can't play football.
3. No, I can't help you.

Exercise p. 19

couldn't, should, shouldn't, can

4. No, you shouldn't be here.
5. No, you can't see me.





Match the sentences

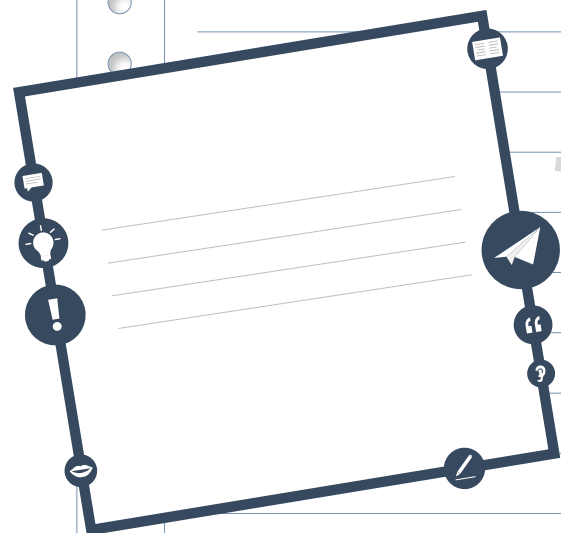
1. When I was one year old, I couldn't talk.
2. I really want to buy this expensive dress for myself.
3. She can only speak German and English.
4. You have the flu today.

- a. But I really should save my money.
- b. She can't speak Italian.
- c. Now, I can speak five languages!
- d. You should stay home.



Text at the beginning

**Go back to the text on page 3
and find examples of
the grammar topic of this lesson in it.
Write them down.**



Copy parts of the text
that are examples of
topic of the lesson.



Find the verbs

**Find the verbs in this lesson and write them down.
Which are new? Do you know all of them?
Look these words up.**

Verbs



Sentences in the first person plural

**Choose five sentences from this lesson.
Copy them and write them about you and a friend.**



Examples:

I don't understand

→ My friend Maria and I don't understand.

He has a book

→ We have a book

...



Easy or difficult?

**Is the grammar topic of this lesson...
easy or difficult?**

Write down what is difficult for you and what is easy.

A vertical sheet of white paper with horizontal lines, resembling a notepad. It has a dark blue binding edge on the left with circular punch holes.



Homework answer key

Exercise p. 25
1c, 2a, 3b, 4d



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