Grammar Reference

'Shoud' and 'Ought to': probability

'Should' and **'ought to'** often express **probability**. Both forms **introduce infinitives** and, usually, refer to the present.

- **'Should'** describes events that are **desirable** or **probable**.

Example: The train **should arrive** very soon.

Note. The negative of **'should'** is **'shouldn't.'**
Example: They **shouldn't be** hard to find.

- **'Ought to'** implies an **expectation** or **assumption**.

Example: He is intelligent. He **ought to pass** the exam.

Note.
- Use of **'ought not (to),'** the **negative** of **'ought to,'** is exceedingly rare.
  Example: They **ought not to** drive on the main road.
- The distinction between **'should'** (the more common of the two) and **'ought to'** is often ignored.

Use of 'else'

'Else' may follow compound forms of **'some,' 'any,' 'no,'** and **'every.'**

Example: You should ask **someone else**.
I have **nothing else** to tell you.
Is there **anything else** you'd like?

Note.
- **'Somewhere else'** and **'elsewhere'** are synonymous.
- **'Else'** is sometimes used in the **possessive**.

Example: I took **somebody else's** coat.

'Else' can also follow 'much,' 'little,' and the interrogative pronouns 'what,' 'who,' and 'where.'

Example: There was **little else** to be said.
What else could I do?
'Or else' is often used as a **linking adverb** like 'otherwise.'

Example: Write back, **or else** I won't write to you again.

More uses of the possessive

The **possessive '-'s,'** although primarily used with nouns designating countries, groups, institutions, and living beings, is also commonly used with **dates** — expressed either as days of the week or as adverbs like 'today,' 'yesterday,' and 'year' — as well as with **durations** and **distances**.

Example:

dates	**Sunday's** weather
	tomorrow's flight
	next year's budget
durations	three **weeks'** vacation
distances	a hundred **miles'** drive