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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