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Grammar Reference

1. Perfect conditional using 'should'

The '**should**' form of the **perfect conditional** ('should have' + past participle) may convey either of the following ideas.

- a **regret** or **reproach**

Example: I **should have gotten** up earlier.
I wouldn't be late now.

They **should have let** us know.
What are we going to do now?

- an (unfulfilled) **expectation** or **assumption** regarding the past

Example: You **should have received** my e-mail. I sent it a half hour ago.

2. 'How' + adjective or adverb

A great deal of open questions (to which one can't answer either yes or no) are formed as follows: **how** + **adjective** or **adverb** + **verb** (or **auxiliary**) + **subject**

Example:

How tall are you?

How high is Mount Everest?

How often do you go to the cinema?

Note. In **indirect interrogatives**, the verb is put after the subject: **how** + **adjective** or **adverb** + **subject** + **verb** or **auxiliary**.

Example: I wonder **how far** city hall **is**.