

Advice (*should, had better*) and necessity (*need, don't have to*)

A Starting activities

1 Dangerous situations

had better, had better not

Work in pairs. Here are some dangerous situations. Imagine that they are happening or have happened in the place where you are learning English: fire, flood, the roof falling in, a dangerous criminal holding a hostage in the basement (he has escaped from prison), a wild animal running loose in the car park (it has escaped from a zoo). Add to the list if you wish. Say what it would be best to do in all the situations. Make as many sentences as you can with *we had better* and *we had better not*.

Examples:

We had better get some buckets for all this water.
We had better not try to catch the lion without help.

2 We need to think of a name for the company

Necessity with *need to*

Work in pairs or as a class. You are starting a new company. Decide what the company is going to do or make. List sentences about everything you need to do before the company can start trading. Use *need to*. Use the vocabulary below to help you.

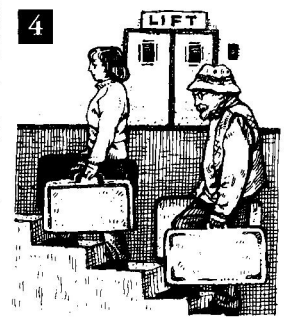
Example: *We need to think of a name for the company.*

Vocabulary: staff, premises, logo, bank loan, machinery

3 They should have come earlier

should have, need not have

Work as a class. For each of the pictures, say a sentence using *should have* + past participle or *need not have* + past participle. Example (for picture 1): *We need not have brought towels. The hotel has provided them.*



B Grammar guide

1 Advice

- We use *should* to say what we think is best for another person. We usually use it when we are talking about our own feelings about the situation.
It's a good book. You should read it. (Because I think you would like the book.)
You're looking tired. You shouldn't work so hard. (Because I think that is what is best for you.)
- You can ask for advice using *should*.
Should we tell her?
Do you think we should wait any longer?
- We use *should* with *have* + past participle to say that in the past somebody did not do something that was the best thing for them.
We've eaten all the food now. You should have come home earlier. (= You didn't come home earlier but you should have.)
The negative is *should not have* + past participle.
We've eaten all the food now. You shouldn't have come home so late. (= You came home late but you should not have.)
- *Had better* is another way of giving advice. We use it to say 'It would be better if you . . .'. The past form *had* is always used, although the meaning is present or future, not past. We use an infinitive after *had better*.
You'd better tell Jim you've borrowed his cassettes, or he'll be angry with you.
You had better not bring your bicycle indoors.

2 Necessity

- Use *need to* to say that it is necessary to do something.
We need to get a visa before we go to the USA.
- To say that something is not necessary, use *don't need to*, *don't have to* or *needn't*. *Needn't* is not followed by *to*.
You needn't apologize. (OR *You don't need to apologize.* OR *You don't have to apologize.*)
- When something was not necessary in the past use *did not need to*, *did not have to* or *need not have*. When a speaker uses *did not need to* or *did not have to* we do not know if the action happened or not, only that it was not necessary.
They did not need to pay. (We do not know if they paid or not.)
They did not have to wait for the bus. (We do not know if they waited or not.)
But when *need not have* + past participle is used, we know that something happened and it was not necessary.
They need not have waited for the bus. (We know that they waited and that it was not necessary.)
They need not have brought towels. The hotel provided them. (We know that they brought towels and that it was not necessary.)

C Activities

1 Dear Doris . . .

Giving advice with *should*, *should not*, *had better* and *had better not*

- 1 Work on your own. Doris is an 'Agony Aunt' who works for a magazine. People write to her with their personal problems and she replies, giving advice. Think of a problem. Write a one-paragraph letter to Doris telling her about the problem as if you were the person with the problem. (Four or five sentences will be enough.)
- 2 Work as a class. Read your letter to Doris out to the class. Discuss other people's letters and give advice, using *should*, *should not*, *had better* and *had better not*.

2 Wrong turnings

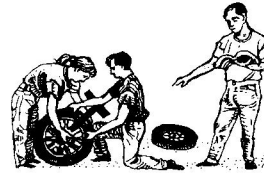
should have and *shouldn't have* + past participle

- 1 Work in pairs. The story of Graham and Davina Alison is in the Activity notes section. Some people would say that Graham and Davina took some wrong turnings in life and made some mistakes. But they were right some of the time. First read Activity note 57 on page 155, then decide together what you think they should have done and should not have done.
- 2 Work as a class. Did other pairs think the same as you and your partner did about Graham and Davina? List all the times when most of the class thought that either Graham or Davina should have done something different.

3 We did it together

needed to, *did not need to*, *did not have to*, *need not have*

- 1 Work in pairs or small groups. You did or made something together. See the pictures below for ideas. Now you are both going to give a talk about how you did it. Plan the talk together using *needed to*, *did not need to*, *did not have to*, *need not have* as often as you realistically can. Examples:
We needed to learn to edit film.
We didn't have to buy the film ourselves.



Making a motorbike from a kit



Writing a biography



Making a video



Writing a cookery book

- 2 Work in the same pairs or small groups. Give your talk to the class.

D Accuracy practice

1 Complete the sentences. Use *should/had better* or *shouldn't/had better not*.

- 1 You _____ give up smoking, you know. It's bad for you.
- 2 Tell Jane she _____ work so hard. She is overdoing it.
- 3 You _____ get some sleep. You look tired out.
- 4 You _____ say that to Sharon. She'll be angry with you.
- 5 You _____ try to lift that by yourself. It's heavy.

2 Ask for advice using *Should I*. You want advice about:

- 1 which restaurant to go to, the Indian one or the Chinese one.
- 2 whether to take the motorbike or go by bus.
- 3 whether to cook dinner or buy a take-away meal.
- 4 whether to finish your homework or go out.
- 5 which shirt to wear, the striped one or the pink one.

3 Write sentences saying what *he/she should* or *shouldn't have done*.

- 1 He left the chicken in the oven for three hours. It only needed two hours to cook.
- 2 The saw she used to cut the wood was not sharp enough.
- 3 Alan had just a small cut on his knee but he called an ambulance.
- 4 Hettie did not tell her until it was too late.
- 5 Gavin only started working for his exams a week before he took them.

4 Complete the sentences. Use *need to*, *doesn't/don't need to*, *doesn't/don't have to* or *needn't*. Write all possible answers.

- 1 Jim, you _____ buy a newspaper. Sarah's got one we can read.
- 2 You _____ fill in one of those pink forms over there.
- 3 There is a meeting for people who failed the examination. Jim passed so he _____ come.
- 4 There _____ be a live band at the party. We can play our own records.
- 5 We _____ buy any sugar. We've got enough.

5 Write sentences saying what these people *needn't have done*.

Example: James did some shopping but Sue had bought a meal already.

James needn't have gone shopping.

- 1 Arthur was worried because Gemma was late coming home. But she got home safely.
- 2 Beverley handed her homework in although it wasn't due until the following week.
- 3 Eric brought his guitar to the party but there were plenty of CDs.
- 4 Lily phoned the police because she thought someone had stolen her chequebook. Later she found the chequebook in a drawer.