# Advice (should/ought to): Mixed Advice Modals: Should, Ought To & Had Better in Context

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. Doctor: You ___ cut down on sugar. Your blood sugar levels are too high.
   a) shouldn't
   b) had better not
   c) ought
   d) should

2. You ___ text while driving. It's extremely dangerous and against the law.
   a) should
   b) shouldn't
   c) ought to
   d) had better

3. You look stressed. Maybe you ___ take a few days off work.
   a) had better
   b) should
   c) must
   d) ought

4. All employees ___ to complete the safety training by the end of the month.
   a) ought
   b) should
   c) had better
   d) would

5. You ___ stop smoking now, or your lungs will suffer serious damage.
   a) should
   b) ought to
   c) had better
   d) would

6. I think you ___ talk to your manager about the problem before it gets worse.
   a) should
   b) must
   c) had better
   d) ought

7. You ___ wear a seatbelt in the car. It's the law.
   a) should
   b) ought to
   c) had better
   d) must

8. If you want to improve your English, you ___ read more books in English.
   a) had better
   b) must
   c) ought
   d) should

9. The hotel ___ be easy to find. It's right next to the train station.
   a) should
   b) ought
   c) had better
   d) must

10. You'd better ___ that email before you send it. There might be mistakes.
    a) to check
    b) checking
    c) checked
    d) check

11. We ___ to help our neighbours when they need it.
   a) had better
   b) should
   c) ought
   d) would

12. Children ___ do homework every day. Their teacher gives it to them.
   a) should
   b) had better
   c) have to
   d) ought to

13. You ___ visit Prague if you get the chance. It's a beautiful city.
   a) must
   b) should
   c) had better
   d) ought

14. You'd better not ___ late again, or the manager will give you a warning.
   a) be
   b) to be
   c) being
   d) been

15. People ___ to respect different cultures and traditions.
   a) had better
   b) ought
   c) would
   d) should

16. You ___ eat more fruit and vegetables. They're good for you.
   a) must
   b) had better
   c) ought
   d) should

17. We'd better ___ home before the storm arrives.
   a) getting
   b) to get
   c) get
   d) got

18. What do you think I ___ do about the noisy neighbours?
   a) had better
   b) must
   c) ought
   d) should

19. Passengers ___ remain seated until the plane has come to a complete stop.
   a) should
   b) ought to
   c) must
   d) had better

20. You ___ not to worry so much about things you can't control.
   a) had better
   b) must
   c) should
   d) ought

# Answers

1. d) should
2. b) shouldn't
3. b) should
4. a) ought
5. c) had better
6. a) should
7. d) must
8. d) should
9. a) should
10. d) check
11. c) ought
12. c) have to
13. b) should
14. a) be
15. b) ought
16. d) should
17. c) get
18. d) should
19. c) must
20. d) ought

# Explanations

**1. "should" (d)**

A doctor giving health advice typically uses 'should'. 'You should cut down on sugar' is a clear medical recommendation. 'Ought to' is possible but less common in spoken medical advice, and the stem doesn't include 'to'.

**2. "shouldn't" (b)**

'Shouldn't' gives negative advice — recommending against something dangerous. While texting and driving is also illegal (obligation), the sentence focuses on giving advice about safety.

**3. "should" (b)**

'Maybe you should...' is a gentle, tentative suggestion. The word 'maybe' softens the advice further. This is caring advice to a friend or colleague, not a formal recommendation or an urgent warning.

**4. "ought" (a)**

'Ought to' is appropriate for formal workplace recommendations. 'All employees ought to complete the safety training' reads like an official notice. It's more formal than 'should' and suitable for professional communication.

**5. "had better" (c)**

'Had better' conveys urgency and implies serious consequences. The 'or' clause makes the negative consequence explicit — serious lung damage. When a consequence is clearly stated with 'or', 'had better' is the most appropriate choice.

**6. "should" (a)**

'I think you should...' gives personal advice in a gentle way. You're recommending an action but leaving the decision to the other person. Adding 'I think' makes it clear this is your opinion, not an order.

**7. "must" (d)**

'Must' expresses obligation — something required by law. Wearing a seatbelt is not just advice; it is a legal requirement. 'Should' would be too weak here because the sentence says 'It's the law', which indicates obligation, not advice.

**8. "should" (d)**

'Should' gives a helpful suggestion. Reading books is a good idea for improving English, but it's not an obligation or an urgent warning. 'If you want to..., you should...' is a classic advice pattern.

**9. "should" (a)**

'Should' here expresses expectation, not advice. 'The hotel should be easy to find' means 'I expect it will be easy to find'. This is a prediction based on the logical fact that it's near the station.

**10. "check" (d)**

'Had better + base verb' without 'to'. 'You'd better check that email' is strong advice — the implied consequence is that sending an email with mistakes could be embarrassing or cause problems.

**11. "ought" (c)**

'Ought to' expresses a moral obligation or what is considered the right thing to do. 'We ought to help our neighbours' sounds like a principle of good behaviour. It has a slightly more serious, moral tone than 'should'.

### 12. "have to" (c)

'Have to' expresses obligation from an external source — the teacher requires homework. This is not advice; it's something the children are required to do. 'Should' would mean it's a recommendation, but the sentence says the teacher gives homework, indicating it's mandatory.

### 13. "should" (b)

'You should visit Prague' is a friendly travel recommendation. There's no urgency, no formal context, and no obligation — just a suggestion based on personal experience. 'Should' is perfect for this kind of casual advice.

### 14. "be" (a)

'Had better not + base verb'. 'You'd better not be late again' is a serious warning — the consequence (a formal warning from the manager) is stated clearly. Always use the base verb after 'had better not'.

### 15. "ought" (b)

'Ought to' is used for moral recommendations and general principles. 'People ought to respect different cultures' expresses what society considers the right thing to do. It carries a sense of moral duty.

### 16. "should" (d)

'Should' gives health advice in a friendly, non-threatening way. There's no immediate danger — just a general recommendation for a healthier diet. 'Must' would be too strong, and 'had better' implies a serious consequence.

### 17. "get" (c)

'Had better + base verb'. 'We'd better get home' carries urgency — the approaching storm is the reason for the warning. If we don't get home, we'll be caught in dangerous weather.

### 18. "should" (d)

'What should I do?' is the standard way to ask for advice. 'What do you think I should do?' adds 'do you think' to make the request for advice even more polite and conversational.

### 19. "must" (c)

'Must' expresses a safety rule or requirement. Remaining seated during landing is not advice — it's an instruction from the airline. The formal, mandatory nature of this rule makes 'must' the correct choice.

### 20. "ought" (d)

'Ought not to' is the negative form of 'ought to'. The sentence structure 'You ___ not to worry' requires 'ought' because only 'ought' is followed by 'to'. If using 'should', the sentence would be 'You should not worry' (without 'to').