

Would and Should Exercise

The modals 'would' and 'should' can both be used with first person pronouns I and we as the less definite form of will and shall. Note that should is not normally used with this meaning in American English.

In both British and American English, we use 'should' to talk about obligations.

'Would' is mainly used to talk about past habits.

Can you use would and should correctly? Test your understanding with this grammar exercise.

1. Everybody wear seat belts.

would

should

Either could be used here

2. When we were kids, we
spend hours playing football.

would

should

Either could be used here

3. I told them we probably be
late.

would

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should

Either could be used here

4. We be grateful for an early reply.

would

should

Either could be used here

5. People drive more carefully.

would

should

6. you like something to eat?

Would

Should

7. we invite Mary?

Should

Would

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8. You not have called him a fool - it really upset him.

would

should

Either could be used here

9. I knew that I write to her, but it seemed too difficult.

would

should

Either could be used here

10. we call the police?

Should

Would

11. I wish you behave like this?

wouldn't

shouldn't

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12. I wish it stop raining.

would
should

Answers

1. Everybody should wear seat belts.
2. When we were kids, we would spend hours playing football.
3. I told them we would / should probably be late.
4. We should / would be grateful for an early reply.
5. People should drive more carefully.
6. Would you like something to eat?
7. Should we invite Mary?
8. You should not have called him a fool - it really upset him.
9. I knew that I should write to her, but it seemed too difficult.
10. Should we call the police?
11. I wish you wouldn't behave like this.
12. I wish it would stop raining.