ESL Should and Shouldn't

Remember!

We use the modal verbs should and shouldn't to share ideas, or suggestions and to give advice.

Activity 1: Read the advice. Change the words in bold using 'You should' and 'You shouldn't.'

- 1. Don't stay up all night.
- 2. It's a good idea to learn how to cook.
- 3. Try to go to bed early.
- 4. It's a bad idea to sit all day.

Activity 2: Put the words in the correct order to form sentences.

should / he / doctor / go / to / the /.

you / eat / vegetables / should / fruits / and /.

homework / ? / should / do / my / I

shouldn't / go / bed / to / late / you /.



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Activity 3: Match each sentence with the correct idea, suggestion or advice.

- 1. I want to speak English.
- 2. I have a headache.
- 3. I want to be healthier.
- 4. I have a toothache.

- a. You should drink water.
- b. You should go to the dentist.
- c. You should study and do your homework.

d. You should eat more fruit and vegetables.

Activity 4: Complete the sentences with 'should' or 'shouldn't'.

- 1. He is thirsty. He _____ drink water.
- 2. You are always tired. You _____ go to bed late.
- 3. She is very sick. She _____ go to work.
- 4. Your kitchen is a mess. You _____ wash the dishes.

This resource has been made for the purpose of teaching English language learners. We know that students can be learning English in many different places, in many different ways and at age, so we try to keep these resources as general as possible. There are many acronyms associated with English language teaching. These include (but are not limited to) ELT, TEFL, EEL, ELL, EAL and ESOL. While the term ESL may not fully represent the linguistic backgrounds of all students, it is the most widely recognised term for English language teaching globally. Therefore, we use the term 'ESL' in the names of our resources to make them easy to find but they are suitable for any student learning to speak English.



Answers

Activity 1:

- 1. You shouldn't stay up all night.
- 2. You should learn how to cook.
- 3. You should go to bed early.
- 4. You shouldn't sit all day.

Activity 2:

- 1. He should go to the doctor.
- 2. You should eat fruits and vegetables.
- 3. Should I do my homework?
- 4. You shouldn't go to bed late.

Activity 3:

- 1. C
- 2. A
- 3. D
- 4. B

Activity 4:

- 1. He is thirsty. He should drink water.
- 2. You are always tired. You shouldn't go to bed late.
- 3. She is very sick. She shouldn't go to work.
- 4. Your kitchen is a mess. You should wash the dishes.



