

Auxiliary verbs

HSK 3 Grammar

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

■ Advice differs from a prediction

- A tired friend asks what to do, and you suggest rest.
- **你应该多休息。** – 应该 expresses advice or an obligation in this conversation.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **应该 / 该 (should, ought to)**. Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

你应该多休息。

nǐ yīng gāi duō xiū xi

Word guide: 你 – you; 应该 – should; 多 – more; 休息 – rest.

■ Read examples in context

该走了!

gāi zǒu le

Word guide: 该 – should; 走 – go.

- In the opening example, **你应该多休息。**: 应该 expresses advice or an obligation in this conversation.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 应该 can also express expectation: 他应该已经到了 means he should have arrived by now.
- Negate advice with 不应该 or 不该; meaning depends on whether the speaker recommends or predicts.

■ Use the distinction

- 应该 expresses advice or an obligation in this conversation.
- 应该 can also express expectation: 他应该已经到了 means he should have arrived by now. Negate advice with 不应该 or 不该; meaning depends on whether the speaker recommends or predicts.

■ Try it with help closed

A tired friend asks what to do, and you suggest rest. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 你应该多休息。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 应该 can also express expectation: 他应该已经到了 means he should have arrived by now.
- Negate advice with 不应该 or 不该; meaning depends on whether the speaker recommends or predicts.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.