

Auxiliary verbs

Ref Hsk3 Grammar

/ — “should, ought to”

(yīnggāi, often clipped to) is the everyday “should, ought to” — what’s **right, advisable, or expected**. It’s an auxiliary verb, so it leans on the main verb that follows. A handy second meaning: it also covers “**ought to be the case / probably**” (an expectation, not a duty).

Structure: Subject + + Verb (+ Object)

{zh: |nǐ|you / |yīng gāi|should / |duō|more / |xiū xi|rest / 。 }

You should rest more.

{zh: |wǒ|I / |yīng gāi|should / |gěi|give / |nǐ|you / |duō shao|how much / |qián|money / ? }

How much should I give you?

{zh: |zài|in / |Zhōng guó|China / , |nǐ|you / |yīng gāi|should / |shì shi|try / |bái jiǔ|baijiu / 。 }

In China, you ought to try baijiu.

Remember: has two flavours — “**should**” (advice:) and “**should be / probably**” (expectation: , “he should be there by now”). Same word, told apart by context.

Watch out

- Negate with (“shouldn’t”): .
- The clipped is the casual spoken form: (“you’d better get going”).