Auxiliary verbs

HSK 3 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

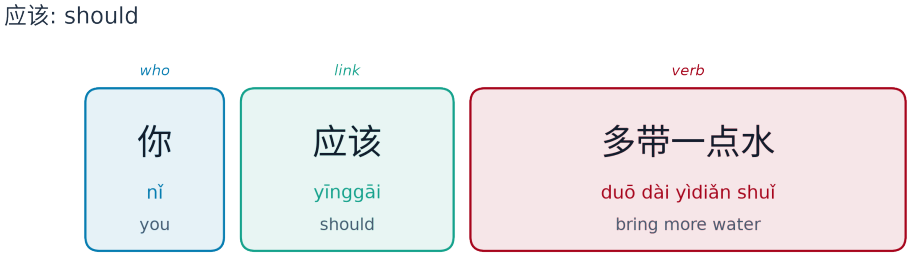
A hot day out

- Your friend is going hiking at noon in 35 degrees with one small bottle of water.
- **你应该多带一点水。** – "You should take some more water."

应该 / 该 + Verb

- **应该 + Verb** = "should, ought to": advice or duty. 该 is the shorter, spoken form.
- Negative: **不应该** = "shouldn't": 你不应该这么晚睡觉.

你不应该这么晚睡觉。
nǐ bù yīng gāi zhè me wǎn shuì jiào
Word guide: 你 – you; 不 – not; 应该 – should; 这么 – so; 晚 – late; 睡觉 – go to bed.



It is time to ...

- **该 + Verb + 了** = "it's time to ...": **十二点了，我该走了。** – "It's twelve; I should be going."
- **该 + person + Verb** = "it's someone's turn": 该你了 – "Your turn."

十二点了，我该走了。
shí èr diǎn le wǒ gāi zǒu le
Word guide: 十二点 – twelve o'clock; 我 – I; 该 – should; 走 – go.

■ Form and position

- 应该 goes after the subject and before the verb: 你应该休息, not 应该你休息.
- Put 不 before 应该 to say "shouldn't": 你不应该去, not 你应该不去.

■ 应该 for "probably"

- 应该 can also be a confident guess: **他应该已经到家了。** – "He should be home by now."
- Context tells you which one: advice to a person, or a guess about a situation.

他应该已经到家了。
tā yīng gāi yǐ jīng dào jiā le
Word guide: 他 – he; 应该 – should; 已经 – already; 到 – arrive; 家 – home.

■ Recap

- **应该 / 该 + Verb** = should; **不应该** = shouldn't.
- **该 ... 了** = it's time to ...; 该你了 = your turn; 应该 can also mean "probably".

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

0304.1 Advise: "You should see a doctor." 你 …… 去看医生。

0304.2 What does 该你了 mean?

- A. It's your turn.
- B. You should be careful.
- C. You've arrived.
- D. You're probably right.

0304.3 Build: "It's twelve; I should be going."

Arrange all chunks: ， / 走了。/ 十二点了 / 我该

0304.4 In 他应该已经到家了, 应该 is advice to him.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

0304.5 Your friend is going hiking at noon in 35 degrees with one small bottle of water. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 应该 / 该 (should, ought to)

0304.1 应该

应该 + verb gives advice.

0304.2 A. It's your turn.

该 + person = it's that person's turn.

0304.3 十二点了，我该走了。

该 + verb + 了 = it's time to.

0304.4 False.

Here 应该 is a confident guess: "he should be home by now."

0304.5 One possible response: 你应该多带一点水。

Check meaning and form:

- 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 goes after the subject and before the verb: 你应该休息, not 应该你休息.
- Put 不 before 应该 to say "shouldn't": 你不应该去, not 你应该不去.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.