

Modal verbs – *should, ought to, shouldn't, had better*

1 Choose the correct word.

- 1 You *should* / *shouldn't* try and get enough sleep.
- 2 You *should* / *shouldn't* worry. It isn't good for you.
- 3 You *ought to* / *shouldn't* keep your friends waiting when you meet each other.
- 4 You *ought to* / *shouldn't* concentrate on what you're doing.
- 5 You *should* / *shouldn't* drink plenty of water.
- 6 You *had better* / *shouldn't* apologise to your mother immediately.

2 Match the questions (a–f) below with the sentences (1–6) in exercise 1.

- | | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| a | I get very thirsty when I'm in the gym. What should I do? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b | I shouted at my mother today and now I'm sorry. What should I do? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c | I keep on making mistakes with my homework. What should I do? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d | I'm always tired and sometimes I fall asleep in school. What should I do? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e | My friends are angry because I'm often late. What should I do? | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f | I've got an important exam but I feel very nervous. What should I do? | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Complete the short dialogues with the words in the box. Use each word only once.

A

ought to should shouldn't

- RICK Hi, Matt! What's wrong?
- MATT I'm being bullied at school. What (1) I do?
- RICK You (2) go and tell a teacher.
- MATT But what if the boy finds out?
- RICK You (3) worry about that. You need to say something or he might not stop.

B

had better should shouldn't

- CINDY I know you like Ben. When are you going to tell him?
- ALICE I don't know. I'm too shy. What do you think I (4) do?
- CINDY Well, you (5) tell him now before someone else asks him out.
- ALICE What if he says 'No'?
- CINDY You (6) worry about that.

C

had better shouldn't

- ED Hey! You (7) do that. You'll get in trouble.
- STELLA Don't worry. You (8) concentrate on what you have to do.