

Should Expressions

1 You shouldn't have!

This expression is used to say thank you for unexpected generosity.



Anna: Happy Birthday! Here is your present from me.

Sam: That's very kind. **You shouldn't have!**

In the example above, Sam says "you shouldn't have". The birthday present from Anna was a surprise, he didn't know he was going to receive this present and he's very thankful for this gift. This is why he uses this expression.

2 How should I know!

This expression is used to say you don't know something and it's impossible that you could know the answer. This normally has a negative connotation (feeling of frustration/anger).

Anna: Where are my keys?

Sam: **How should I know?**

In the example above, Sam says "how should I know?" Sam doesn't know where Anna's keys are and it's impossible that he knows (maybe because he wasn't with Anna when she lost them).



3 I should think so!

This expression is used to say this is what you expected to happen as a minimum action/gesture. This is also said with a negative attitude.

Anna: I felt very bad shouting at my brother, so I phoned him to apologise.

Sam: **I should think so!**

In the example above, Sam says "I should think so!" Sam expected Anna to phone her brother to apologise and thinks this is the minimum thing she can do. Maybe she could do more e.g. buy him a present, go and visit him.

