



Mastering ‘I Should’ in French

A Speak French Avec Moi Mini-Lesson

Welcome to today's episode! In this quick, highly visual module, you will learn the rules, the nuances, and the exact phrases to express mild duties, probabilities, and advice to yourself using the conditional form of *devoir*.

The Structure: Je devrais

Je devrais comes from the verb 'Devoir' (to have to/must).

Top Zone: The Formula

Subject (Je) + devrais + Infinitif (Base Verb)

Bottom Zone: Watch Your Spelling!

WITH an -s	WITHOUT an -s
(Je devrais)	(Je devrai)
➔ Conditional Form	➔ Future Form
➔ Means: "I should"	➔ Means: "I will have to"



When to Use Je devrais

1. A Mild Duty

Je devrais aller plus souvent
à la salle de sport.

*(I should go more often to the
gym.)*

2. Likely to Happen

Je devrais partir à 16h30.

*(I should ~~will~~ ^{leave} ~~go~~ ^{take} it.
(I should leave at 4:30pm.)*

3. Thinking Out Loud

Je devrais prendre un train
plus tôt.

*(I should take an earlier
train.)*

The Negative: Je ne devrais pas

Use this to express a bad idea or something that isn't good for you.

Examples in Context

- **A bad idea:** Je ne devrais pas regarder des séries en une fois. (I shouldn't binge watch entire series.)
- **Not good for you:** Je ne devrais pas manger autant de frites ! (I shouldn't eat so many fries!)

⚠ Language Note

In French, the direct translation of the English expression 'I shouldn't think so' does not exist!



Test Your Knowledge

Part 1: Multiple Choice

What happens if you forget the “-s” and write Je devrai?

A) It means “I shouldn’t”

B) It changes to the future tense (“I will have to”)

C) It is grammatically incorrect

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Complete the formula: Subject + _____ + Infinitif.

Part 3: Match the Meaning

1. Je devrais partir à 16h30.

A) A bad idea

2. Je devrais aller à la salle de sport.

B) Something likely to happen

3. Je ne devrais pas manger autant de frites.

C) A mild duty

