

Ought to

3 de enero de 2019



“Ought” is a modal verb, and it has the same meaning as “should”. It can be used to express a moral obligation or desirability, and probability.

First, expressing an obligation and something that is desirable:

- I ought to do it (debería hacerlo).
- He ought to have known it (debía saberlo).
- You ought to be grateful (deberías estar agradecido).
- Mr. Podemos ought to have apologised to Mr. Sanchez (...debería haberle disculpado a...).
- Mr. Corbyn ought not to have said that (...no debería haber dicho eso).

Now, probability:

- The students ought to be there by now (... y deberían de haber llegado).
- Mr. Sanchez ought to win the election (...debería ganar...).

Please note that “ought” requires the preposition “to” to follow, whereas “should” does not have that requirement.