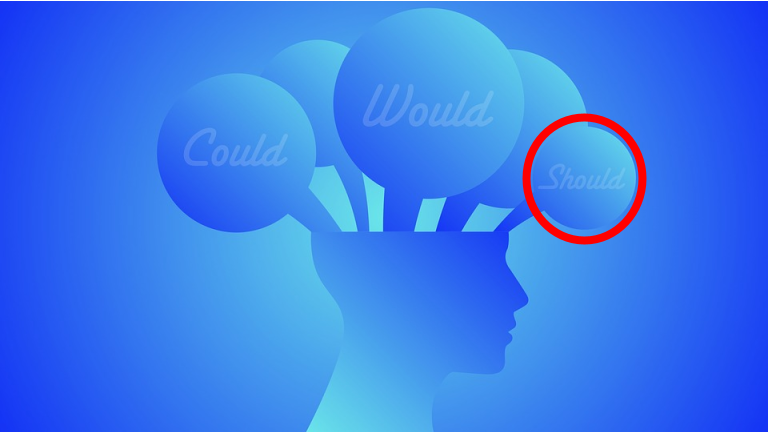
5.8 - *Co bych měl dělat?* - What should I do?



We’re going to be talking about whether people should go to the doctor. For this, you’ll need to know how to say ‘should’ in Czech. In order to say this, we’ll need the following forms:c

We already actually had one way of saying should (see – [4.5 - saying 'should' -- the verb *mít*](https://realityczech.org/saying-should-the-verb-mit)). So why two ways? Well, there is a slight difference between the two, mainly in that the forms above (*měl bych*, etc.) are a little less forceful/pushy. They tend to have a general meaning of ‘should’ without the stronger ‘supposed to’ meaning that forms like *mám, máš,* etc.) have.

| *Měl bych číst víc.*  I should read more. | *Měla bych trávit víc času v přírodě.*  I should spend more time in nature. | *Měl bych se dívat na telefon míň. Měl bych být offline víc.*  I should look at my phone less. I should be offline more. |
| --- | --- | --- |

| ***měl / měla bych* ‘I should’** | *měli / měly bychom* ‘we should’ |
| --- | --- |
| *měl / měla bys* ‘you should’ | *měl / měla byste* ‘you (formal) should’  *měli / měly byste* ‘you (plural) should’ |
| *měl / měla by* ‘he/she should’ | *měli / měly by* ‘they should’ |

Note on word order:

This won’t come up a lot now, but technically the forms bych, bys, by… all are in 2nd position (just like *se* and *si*, see [2.5 - Reflexive *se* and *si* and 2nd position](https://realityczech.org/reflexive-se-and-si-and-2nd-position)), so if something comes first in the sentence, the order will be switched around, e.g. - *Měl bych pracovat* vs. *Já bych měl pracovat*; *Měli by se učit* vs. *Petr a Sára by se měli učit*.

Images used in this document come from [these sources](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n40EDsw3EsjjcTMybMf-ZURDQh8ino-hGV7xWtUpp4Y/edit#heading=h.6w0mk99h88gd).