**Should** is often used in conditional clauses expressing possibilities, suppositions etc. By using **should** in the **if-clause** we are suggesting that something is unlikely or not particularly probable.

If you **should** run into Mathews, tell him that he owes me $100. (= Your chances of meeting Mathews are rather slim, but if you **MEET** him, tell him that he owes me some money.)

More examples are given below

If she **should** come, ask her to wait. (She is unlikely to come, but if she **COMES**, ask her to wait.)

If they **should** attack us again, we will give them a warm reception. (They are unlikely to attack us again, but if they **DO**, we will make it memorable for them as well.)

**Should** can also go at the beginning of the sentence. In this case, **if** is dropped.

**Should** it rain, there will be no picnic today. (= If it should rain, there will be no picnic today.)

**Should** she arrive, ask her to wait.

**Should** she fail the test, she will lose her job. (= If she should fail the test, she will lose her job.)

Instead of **should** we can use **happen** in the **if-clause**.

If you **happen to** meet John, tell him that the meeting has been postponed.

OR

If you **should** meet John, tell him that the meeting has been postponed.

**Should** and **happen to** can be used together.

If you **should happen** to lose your job, what will you do?