

Would Have, Could Have, Should Have

Practice Worksheet

Name:

Date:

Level:

B1-B2 / B2

Focus:

past modals for regret, possibility, and criticism

Quick reminder: would have = imagined result or intention, could have = possibility or missed chance, should have = regret or criticism.

Exercise 1. Choose the best option

Circle or underline the correct answer.

1. If I had known about the traffic, I would have / could have left earlier.
2. You should have / would have told me you were running late.
3. She isn't answering. She could have / should have left her phone at home.
4. We would have / should have gone to the seaside, but the weather was awful.
5. They could have / should have won the match, but they missed two easy chances.
6. I should have / could have taken an umbrella. Now I'm soaked.
7. He would have / could have helped you, but nobody asked him.
8. Sam couldn't have / shouldn't have known the answer. She was absent that day.

Exercise 2. Match the sentence to the meaning

Write the correct letter next to each sentence.

Sentence	Meaning
1. I should have listened to your advice.	a. past impossibility / very unlikely
2. He could have missed the last bus.	b. regret about a better action
3. We would have come, but the children were ill.	c. criticism for not doing something
4. You could have called me.	d. intended action that did not happen
5. She couldn't have written this email yesterday.	e. past possibility

Exercise 3. Complete the sentences

Use would have, could have, should have, couldn't have, or shouldn't have + the verb in brackets.

1. If we had booked earlier, we _____ (get) cheaper tickets.
2. You _____ (tell) me the truth. I was your friend.
3. Maria isn't here yet. She _____ (take) the wrong train.
4. They _____ (drive) home after the party. They had had too much to drink.
5. He _____ (forget) the meeting — I reminded him twice.
6. I _____ (study) harder for the exam. My mark was disappointing.
7. We _____ (go) for a walk, but it started pouring with rain.
8. She _____ (become) a brilliant lawyer, but she chose a different path.

Exercise 4. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence contains one mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. I should of called you yesterday.

2. He couldn't have left his keys at home, so perhaps they're in his bag.

3. We would have caught the train if we leave earlier.

4. You could have to tell me you were upset.

5. They shouldn't have went out so late.

6. She would have help us if she had known.

Exercise 5. Rewrite using the prompt

Keep the meaning the same. Use the word(s) in brackets.

1. I didn't study enough, and now I regret it. (should)

2. It was possible for them to win, but they didn't. (could)

3. We wanted to visit you, but our car broke down. (would)

4. It was impossible for Anna to know about the surprise. (couldn't)

5. It was a bad idea for me to spend so much money. (shouldn't)

Exercise 6. Complete the mini-dialogues

Complete each reply with a suitable form: would have, could have, should have, couldn't have, or shouldn't have.

1. A: Why is Ben so upset?

B: He _____ prepared better for the interview.

2. A: Why didn't they come to the barbecue?

B: They _____ come, but their baby was ill.

3. A: Where's my notebook?

B: You _____ left it in the classroom.

4. A: Emma had no idea about the party.

B: Of course not. She _____ known.

5. A: Tom looks exhausted.

B: He _____ stayed up until 3 a.m. again.

Exercise 7. Write your own sentences

Write one original sentence for each structure.

Structure	Your sentence
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would have

could have

should have

couldn't have

shouldn't have

Answer Key

Exercise 1

1. would have
2. should have
3. could have
4. would have
5. could have
6. should have
7. would have
8. couldn't have

Exercise 2

- 1-b
- 2-e
- 3-d
- 4-c
- 5-a

Exercise 3

1. would have got / would've got
2. should have told
3. could have taken
4. shouldn't have driven
5. couldn't have forgotten
6. should have studied
7. would have gone
8. could have become

Exercise 4

1. I should have called you yesterday.
2. He could have left his keys at home, so perhaps they're in his bag.
3. We would have caught the train if we had left earlier.
4. You could have told me you were upset.
5. They shouldn't have gone out so late.
6. She would have helped us if she had known.

Exercise 5

1. I should have studied enough / I should have studied more.
2. They could have won.
3. We would have visited you, but our car broke down.

4. Anna couldn't have known about the surprise.
5. I shouldn't have spent so much money.

Exercise 6

1. should have
2. would have
3. could have
4. couldn't have
5. shouldn't have

Teacher's note

Some answers in Exercise 5 may vary slightly if the grammar and meaning are correct.