



SHOULD HAVE / SHOULDN'T HAVE

Exercise 1: Multiple Choice (B2)

Choose the correct option.

1. I'm exhausted. I really _____ to bed earlier last night.

- A) should go
- B) should have gone
- C) shouldn't go
- D) shouldn't have gone

2. She looks upset. She _____ that email without checking it first.

- A) should send
- B) should have sent
- C) shouldn't send
- D) shouldn't have sent

3. We missed the train because we _____ more time.

- A) should allow
- B) shouldn't allow
- C) should have allowed
- D) shouldn't have allowed

4. He apologised because he realised he _____ so harsh.

- A) shouldn't be
- B) shouldn't have been
- C) should be
- D) should have been



Exercise 2: Open Cloze (B2–C1)

Complete each sentence with should have or shouldn't have and the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. I _____ (read) the instructions more carefully.
2. They _____ (spend) so much money on unnecessary equipment.
3. She _____ (tell) him the truth from the beginning.
4. We _____ (ignore) the warning signs.
5. He _____ (interrupt) her during the meeting.

Exercise 3: Sentence Transformation (C1)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first. Use should / shouldn't have and no more than five words.

1. It was a mistake not to save more money.
→ I _____ more money.
2. He regrets shouting at his colleague.
→ He _____ at his colleague.
3. It was wrong of them to cancel at the last minute.
→ They _____ at the last minute.
4. I now realise that leaving early was the better choice.
→ I _____ earlier.

Exercise 4: Error Correction (B2–C1)

Each sentence contains one mistake. Find it and correct it.

1. I should have went to the doctor sooner.
2. She shouldn't have say anything during the interview.
3. We should have left earlier, but we don't.
4. He shouldn't have took the job without thinking it through.



Exercise 5: Writing Task (Exam-style)

You have seen this comment on an online forum:

“Looking back, I think many of my problems last year were avoidable.”

Write a short paragraph (80–120 words) in which you:

- describe two things you should have done
- describe one thing you shouldn't have done
- Use should have / shouldn't have naturally and accurately.



✓ ANSWER KEY

Exercise 1

1. B should have gone
2. D shouldn't have sent
3. C should have allowed
4. B shouldn't have been

Exercise 2

1. should have read
2. shouldn't have spent
3. should have told
4. shouldn't have ignored
5. shouldn't have interrupted

Exercise 3

1. should have saved
2. shouldn't have shouted
3. shouldn't have cancelled
4. should have left

Exercise 4

1. should have gone
2. shouldn't have said
3. should have left earlier, but we didn't
4. shouldn't have taken