



## **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