Advanced Modality Worksheet: Would Have Thought, Might Have Known

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
I would have thought (that)…: polite disagreement or surprise	I would have thought she'd be pleased.
might / could have + participle: reproach	You might have warned me!
I might have known / guessed: not surprised (irony)	I might have known it would rain.
could do with: need · should for logical expectation · need / dare as modals	I could do with a holiday. They should be there by now. How dare you!

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
You might warn me! (past)	You might have warned me!
I could do with to have a rest.	I could do with a rest.
How you dare speak to me like that!	How dare you speak to me like that!

1. Complete

Complete with the expressions in the box: would have thought · might have known · could do with · should · needn't · dare · might have · could have done with.

1. It's been a long week. I _____ a long sleep.
2. She sent it at nine, so it _____ be in your inbox by now.
3. You _____ told me the meeting was cancelled! I came for nothing.
4. He forgot again? I _____ he would.
5. I _____ you'd prefer the window seat.
6. You _____ come if you don't want to.
7. We _____ an extra pair of hands yesterday.
8. I _____ not tell my mother what happened.

2. Choose

Circle the best option.

1. I (would have thought / would think) that was obvious.
2. You (might have / might) asked before borrowing my car!
3. The parcel left yesterday, so it (should / must to) arrive today.
4. I (could do with / could do) a cup of tea.
5. I (might have known / might know) you'd be the last to arrive.
6. (Need / Do need) I say more?
7. How (dare / dares) she say that!
8. We (needn't have / mustn't have) worried. Everything was fine.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. You might told me earlier.
2. I would thought you knew.
3. I could do with have a holiday.
4. How you dare!
5. Need I to explain?
6. It should to be ready by now.

Writing

Write an ironic diary entry (6–7 sentences) about a frustrating day. Use at least five structures from this sheet.

Speaking

- What could you do with right now?
- Tell me about a time someone might have warned you but didn't.
- Complete: 'I would have thought that by now, people...'
- What happened recently that made you think 'I might have known'?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 could do with · 2 should · 3 might have · 4 might have known · 5 would have thought · 6 needn't · 7 could have done with · 8 dare

2. Choose: 1 would have thought · 2 might have · 3 should · 4 could do with · 5 might have known · 6 Need · 7 dare · 8 needn't have

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 You might have told me earlier. · 2 I would have thought you knew. · 3 I could do with a holiday. · 4 How dare you! · 5 Need I explain? · 6 It should be ready by now.

Writing, model answer: Today was one of those days. The train was cancelled again; I might have known. My colleague, who knew about the strike, might have mentioned it last night. I would have thought that a company of our size could organise a simple meeting online. I could have done with a coffee by ten, but the machine was broken. My boss should have left by six, but he stayed until eight. Need I say more? I could do with a very long holiday.