Should Have, Could Have, Needn't Have Worksheet

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
should / shouldn't have + participle: criticism, regret	You should have called me.
could have: a possibility that didn't happen	We could have taken a taxi.
would have: I was willing, but...	I would have come, but nobody told me.
needn't have: you did it, but it was unnecessary	You needn't have cooked; we already ate.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
You should told me.	You should have told me.
We should have went home earlier.	We should have gone home earlier.
You shouldn't to have shouted.	You shouldn't have shouted.

1. Complete

Complete with should have, shouldn't have, could have or needn't have and the verb in brackets.

1. I failed. I _____ (study) more.
2. You _____ (buy) flowers! That's so kind, but unnecessary.
3. We _____ (go) to the beach, but we decided to stay in.
4. He _____ (drive) so fast. He got a fine.
5. You _____ (tell) me it was your birthday! I didn't get you anything.
6. She _____ (be) a professional singer, but she chose law.
7. I _____ (eat) that second burger. I feel sick.
8. We _____ (hurry). The train was 30 minutes late anyway.

2. Choose

Circle the best option.

1. You (should have / must have) asked for help. Why didn't you?
2. I (needn't have / didn't need to) wash the car, so I didn't.
3. I (needn't have / didn't need to) wash the car. It rained an hour later.
4. He (could have / should have) died. It was a very dangerous fall.
5. I (would have / should have) helped you, but I was in Paris.
6. They (shouldn't have / couldn't have) left the door open. The cat escaped.
7. You (could / could have) called me from the airport!
8. We (should have booked / should book) a table. It's full now.

3. Correct the mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake. Write it correctly.

1. You should have tell me earlier.

2. I shouldn't have went to bed so late.

3. She could has won the race.

4. You needn't to have come.

5. We should have bring a map.

6. He shouldn't had said that.

Writing

Write about a holiday or event that went badly (7 sentences). Say what you should have done, what you could have done and what you needn't have done.

Speaking

- Tell me about a decision you regret. What should you have done?
- Have you ever done something that wasn't necessary? What happened?
- What could you have studied instead of what you studied?
- A friend arrived very late to your party without calling. What should they have done?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 should have studied · 2 needn't have bought · 3 could have gone · 4 shouldn't have driven · 5 should have told · 6 could have been · 7 shouldn't have eaten · 8 needn't have hurried

2. Choose: 1 should have · 2 didn't need to · 3 needn't have · 4 could have · 5 would have · 6 shouldn't have · 7 could have · 8 should have booked

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 You should have told me earlier. · 2 I shouldn't have gone to bed so late. · 3 She could have won the race. · 4 You needn't have come. · 5 We should have brought a map. · 6 He shouldn't have said that.

Writing, model answer: Our camping trip last summer was a disaster. We should have checked the weather forecast, because it rained for three days. We should have taken a bigger tent. We could have stayed in a hotel in the village, but we wanted an adventure. We needn't have brought so much food, because there was a great restaurant nearby. My brother shouldn't have forgotten the matches. Next time we'll plan better.