

Past Modals for Opinions and Advice

Structure: subject + modal + (not) + have + past participle + complement

Giving opinion (should have)

We use should / shouldn't have, to give opinions.

Example: you + **should + have + called** + her.
Peter + **should + not + have** + driven + last night.

Giving advice (would have / could have)

We use these modals to mean a different way to do things.

Example: I + **wouldn't + have + drunk** + so much.
You + **could + have + come** + to me first.

Giving opinion	Giving advice
You should have called her on the phone. She shouldn't have kept your notes this long.	You could have been more understanding. I would have borrowed someone else's notes. I wouldn't have lent them to her.

Complete the conversations using the past modals with verbs given.

1. A: I invited my boyfriend over to meet my parents, but he arrived wearing torn jeans. He looked so messy!
 B: Well, he _____ (dress) neatly. I _____ (ask) him to wear something nicer.

2. A: John borrowed my car and dented it. When he returned it, he didn't even say anything about it!
 B: He _____ (tell) you! Well, I _____ (not lend) it to him in the first place. He's a terrible driver.

3. A: I'm exhausted. Mary came over and stayed until 2 A.M.!
 B: She _____ (not stay) so late. You _____ (start) yawning. Maybe she would have gotten the hint!

4. A: Tom invited me to a play, but I ended up paying for us both!
 B: I _____ (not pay) for him. He _____ (not invite) you of he was short of money.