

Should Have + Past Participle



A. Read the conversation below.

Speaker A: They didn't take an umbrella, and they got soaking wet.

Speaker B: They should have taken an umbrella.

The couple in the photo should have taken an umbrella. Taking an umbrella was a good idea—but they didn't do it.

Should have + past participle is often used to talk about regrets and past mistakes.

Pronunciation Tip: The / in *should* is silent; *should* rhymes with *good*. *Should have* is usually pronounced “should-ev” or “shoulda.”

B. Complete the sentences for Speaker B. Use **should have** in each sentence.

1. Speaker A: I didn't take the subway to work. I took the bus, and the traffic was awful.
Speaker B: You _____.
2. Speaker A: They didn't ask for directions, and they got lost.
Speaker B: They _____.
3. Speaker A: She didn't study for the test. Her score was 64%.
Speaker B: She _____.
4. Speaker A: I didn't eat lunch today. Now I'm really hungry.
Speaker B: You _____.

5. Speaker A: They didn't buy the TV when it was on sale. Now it costs \$100 more.

Speaker B: They _____.

6. Speaker A: She didn't go to the party because she thought it would be boring. The next day, she heard that everybody had a great time.

Speaker B: She _____.

7. Speaker A: We didn't learn any Italian before we went to Italy. Sometimes we had trouble communicating with Italians.

Speaker B: You _____.

8. Speaker A: He didn't check the hours before he went to the library. When he arrived, he discovered the library was closed.

Speaker B: He _____.

9. Speaker A: We didn't make a reservation for dinner. The restaurant was busy, and we had to wait over an hour for a table.

Speaker B: You _____.

10. Speaker A: He didn't read the agreement before he clicked on "agree." He didn't know he was giving the company permission to share his personal information.

Speaker B: He _____.

C. Read the sentences above aloud with a partner.

D. Write your own sentences for Speaker A and B. Use *should have* in the sentence you write for Speaker B.

Speaker A: _____

Speaker B: _____