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## MODALS: using SHOULD - WOULD & COULD

### USAGE GUIDE

Should	Would	Could
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Obligation or advice:</b> I should see a doctor about my back pain.</li> <li><b>2. Advice or suggestion:</b> You should go to bed earlier.</li> <li><b>3. Recommendation:</b> You should have a holiday.</li> <li><b>4. Probability:</b> It should be raining.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Conditional sentences:</b> I would go if I had the money.</li> <li><b>2. Hypothesis:</b> It would be nice to live in Paris.</li> <li><b>3. Preference:</b> I'd rather go to the beach.</li> <li><b>4. Habit:</b> He would always be late.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Ability:</b> I could speak French when I was a child.</li> <li><b>2. Possibility:</b> It could be dangerous.</li> <li><b>3. Potential:</b> He could be a great leader.</li> </ul>

### PRACTICE

Complete the following sentences with <b>could/would/should</b> rather as necessary.	Finish the following sentences using <b>would, could, should</b> rather as necessary.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mary doesn't look at all well. I think she _____.</li> <li>Peter wasn't very happy and he _____.</li> <li>You ought to be a doctor, but I _____.</li> <li>You _____ out so much butter on your bread, it's unhealthy.</li> <li>Do you think that man Mary was talking to _____?</li> <li>When we were children, grandfather _____.</li> <li>I think Harry _____ often tell us stories about his school days.</li> <li>He _____ take the job because the wages were too low.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was raining so heavily we _____.</li> <li>John has a terrible cold, he _____.</li> <li>When she was a child, she _____.</li> <li>Alex has been smoking too much lately, I think she _____.</li> <li>I don't like going to the cinema, I _____.</li> <li>I don't think these old magazines _____.</li> <li>If I had a million dollars, I _____.</li> <li>Why didn't you tell me you were not feeling well? _____.</li> <li>He had forgotten to take his wallet so _____.</li> </ol>

Modal verbs can could must have to should exercises pdf. Must have to should exercises pdf with answers.

Also See: Must & Have To / Has To GrammarBank Video Exercises (New!) | 1 Would, should, could (have) PDF worksheets Online exercises Grammar rules English grammar books PDF PDF book 1: English grammar exercises PDF PDF book 2: English grammar rules PDF Would, could, should exercises PDF worksheets with keys: PDF exercises to download for free. Would, could, should PDF exercise 1 Complete sentences with the present conditional: Would you deliver this parcel?

**Conditional Sentences** (0-100%)

1. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the lottery, I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a big house.

2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a doctor if she \_\_\_\_\_ (study) medicine.

3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Paris if I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) the money.

4. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late if he \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) up late.

5. They \_\_\_\_\_ (be) happy if they \_\_\_\_\_ (get) married.

6. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a great singer if she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a good voice.

7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a millionaire if I \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the lottery.

8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a doctor if he \_\_\_\_\_ (study) medicine.

9. They \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late if they \_\_\_\_\_ (wake) up late.

10. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a great singer if she \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a good voice.

You should have done it. Would, could, should / have PDF exercise 3 A multiple choice test to practise the difference. How did Samuel learn about it? Margaret \_\_\_\_\_ him. (could tell, could have told) See also: Conditional sentences exercises PDF Zero, first, second, third and mixed conditional sentences. Online exercises with answers: Would, could, should exercise 1 Complete sentences with verbs in brackets. Would have, could have, should have exercise 2 Complete the dialogue (Disaster at the Disco).

## CAN / COULD

1. Jessica \_\_\_\_\_ skate very well. He should practice a lot.
  - can't
  - could
  - can
  - couldn't
2. \_\_\_\_\_ he ride a bicycle at the age of 3?
  - Can / can't / can
  - Could / can't / couldn't
  - Could / couldn't / could
  - Can't / can't / could
3. Martha \_\_\_\_\_ draw pictures when she was 5.
  - could
  - can
  - couldn't
  - can't
4. Jessica \_\_\_\_\_ wear that dress yesterday.
  - can't
  - can
  - couldn't
  - can't
5. He was very sad because he \_\_\_\_\_ eat his ice cream.
  - could
  - can
  - couldn't
  - can't
6. My dog is looking for its home but it \_\_\_\_\_ find it.
  - couldn't
  - can
  - could
  - can't
7. He \_\_\_\_\_ comb his hair by himself. His mother combs it for him.
  - could
  - can
  - couldn't
  - can't
8. My little brother was six months old \_\_\_\_\_ walk when he was born.
  - can
  - can't
  - could
  - couldn't
9. Tom is really athletic. He \_\_\_\_\_ run very fast.
  - could
  - can
  - can't
  - couldn't
10. Could Jennifer eat her soup last night?
  - No, she \_\_\_\_\_ it was too chili.
  - can
  - could
  - couldn't
  - can't
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Adam ski? - No, he \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Can/can
  - Could / could
  - Could / can't
  - Can / can't
12. David \_\_\_\_\_ sleep well last night because he was alone at home.
  - can
  - could
  - can't
  - couldn't

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Online exercises with answers: Would, could, should exercise 1 Complete sentences with verbs in brackets. Would have, could have, should have exercise 2 Complete the dialogue (Disaster at the Disco). Would, could, should / have exercise 3 Practise the difference between the present and past conditional in a multiple choice quiz. Grammar rules PDF: Would, should, could rules PDF Grammar rules on the conditional tense to download for free. If-conditionals rules PDF Zero, first, second, third and mixed conditional sentences. English grammar PDF All grammar rules with examples on this website. Would, could, should, might The modal verbs would, could, should are used to speculate about the present or future situations. Would We use the present conditional tense (would + the base form of a verb) to speculate about present or future situations that could theoretically happen. It is used when the action is either impossible or when we do not think that the action will happen. He would be here. (But he can't be here. It is not possible.) I would travel by plane. (If I wanted to go on holiday. But I do not want to.) Should In the first person singular and plural should instead of would is also possible. But it is not very common in modern English. I would (should) be really glad. (If you could help me). We would (should) send the fax. (But we do not know how to do it). Should, however, can also express a recommendation or advice. In this respect, it is similar to ought to. I should study tonight. I ought to study tonight. (Or I will fail the exam tomorrow.) He should drive carefully. (Or he will crash one day.) You should speak loudly. (Or he will crash one day.) Could, might Could and might are the conditional tense of modal verbs can and may. They are also used to speculate about the present or future. Could indicates theoretical possibility, might indicates possibility + uncertainty. She could come with us tomorrow. (It is possible). She will be free. She might come with us tomorrow. (We hope that it is possible, but we are not sure.) Note Could is also the past form of can and expresses possibility, ability or permission in the past. Possibility: She could travel in our car. (It was possible because we had a free seat for her.) Ability: She could play again in the last match. (She was able to play because she was not ill anymore.) Permission: She could come with us last weekend. (Her father allowed her to go.) Would have, should have, could have, might have We use the past conditional tense (would + have + the past participle of a verb) to speculate about the past situations which were theoretically possible, but did not happen in fact. I would have done it. (But I didn't do it.) I would have told her. (But she didn't want to listen.) She wouldn't have married me. (Because she didn't like me.) Compare: She would lend me some money now. (It is possible that she will lend me some money.) I would have lent me some money last year. (It was possible, but I didn't ask her.) Similarly: I would do it. Will you help me? I would have done it. But you didn't help me. Should, could and might are used in the same way. You should finish it soon. You should have finished it. Why did you give up? We might have dinner. I am hungry. We might have had dinner. But we didn't eat anything. They could fly tomorrow. They could have flown last week. But they stayed at home. Should + have + past participle (should have finished) is used to express regrets or recommendations concerning the past. He shouldn't have refused it. It was a good offer. (It is a pity that he refused it.) Might (might have had) and could (could have flown) are used to speculate about the past. We say that something was possible, but we know that it did not happen. He might / could have died. But he didn't buy a lottery ticket. Compare In English we can also speculate with may. In this case we do not know if the action really happened or not. He may have died. (It is possible that he died.) But maybe he is still alive.) He may have won. (It is possible that he won.) But maybe he lost.) Our tip: English grammar books PDF All PDF exercises and grammar rules from this website. top - I could have moved out when I was 18, but I didn't want to leave my family. (I chose to stay) - I might have moved out, but I didn't want to leave my family. (I chose to stay) - I could have gone out with my friends but I wanted to watch the soccer game. (I could but I didn't go with them) - I might have gone out with my friends but I wanted to watch the soccer game. In both sentences, either action was possible for me but I stayed home to watch the game, I may be watching the game at the moment while my friends are out or perhaps this was yesterday. It was in the past, and that we didn't do something we were supposed to do. It was a mistake. - You should have checked your answers thoroughly before you handed in your exam. (But you didn't which was a mistake) - You ought to have checked. (Same but stronger than should have) - You ----- asked my permission before you used my computer. I'm really angry with you. a) needn't have b) should have c) ought to have - You ----- watching TV all night yesterday, that's why you feel so tired now. a) should have b) ought to have c) should have d) ought to have e) should have f) ought to have g) should have h) ought to have i) should have j) ought to have Must have + V3 is when we talk about our strong opinions based on evidences / facts. - Do you know Ryan's math grade? - I don't know but he must have got an A. (His math is really good) Would have + V3 is similar to could have but would have is more about something we chose to do or not to do in the past because a certain necessity was not met. Something was missing and that we chose to do what we did and that would have is usually combined with if clauses. I would have moved out but I hadn't had enough money. (I wanted to move out but I didn't have money) I would have been smiling if you had brought me some flowers. (You didn't bring me flowers, so I am not smiling) I would have never divorced him if he hadn't hit me. (I would never divorce him unless he hit me. / He hit me, I divorced him) It means to say that in the past even if we had wanted something, we didn't have the chance to do it. - I couldn't have visited you when I was in Paris as I didn't know your address. (I didn't visit you when I was in England but it was not possible anyway) Can't Have / Couldn't Have V3 99% (impossibility) I am sure he wasn't lying, he can't have cheated on you. Mustn't have + V3 85% (it can be wrong) I can't believe him, he mustn't have crashed. Jerry was probably joking. May / Might not have V3 50% (probably didn't happen) I am so curious, she may have won the contest, you never know. Examples One of them ---- be lying and I suspect it's Emma. a) must b) may c) must have d) can't e) mustn't - When did you go shopping last? - I ---- ages ago. a) must be b) may be c) must have been d) could be Jane ---- about the meeting as she didn't mention about it at all. a) must hear b) must have heard c) can't have heard d) couldn't have heard e) needn't have heard f) was able to hear GrammarBank Video Exercises (New!) | 1