Should Have, Could Have, Would Have — Worksheet

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30 exercises · Level B1–B2 · Answer key on the last page Free for classroom use

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Choose the correct option (a–d) for each gap or question. Check yourself with the answer key on the last page.

1. It's raining and I'm soaking wet. I _____ an umbrella.
   a) should have bringed b) should has brought c) should brought d) should have brought
2. I couldn't sleep at all. I _____ so much coffee last night.
   a) shouldn't drank b) shouldn't have drunk c) shouldn't had drunk d) shouldn't drink
3. We _____ a taxi, but it was a lovely evening, so we walked.
   a) could have took b) could has taken c) could have taken d) could taken
4. I _____ you to the airport, but my car had broken down.
   a) would have drove b) would has driven c) would drove d) would have driven
5. You _____ me you were coming! I'd have made dinner.
   a) should of told b) should have telled c) should have told d) should told
6. It's a pity you missed the party. You _____ it.
   a) would have loved b) would of loved c) would have love d) would loved
7. That was close! You _____ yourself with that knife.
   a) could have cutted b) can have cut c) could has cut d) could have cut
8. Thanks so much for your help. I _____ it without you.
   a) couldn't have did b) couldn't have done c) couldn't had done d) couldn't done
9. _____ I _____ a tie? All the other guests are wearing one.
   a) Should … have wore b) Did … should wear c) Should … have worn d) Should … had worn
10. I _____ to the party if I'd known Max would be there.
    a) wouldn't have came b) wouldn't have come c) wouldn't had come d) wouldn't came
11. You _____ so rude to her yesterday. She was only trying to help.
    a) shouldn't have been b) should have been c) shouldn't be d) shouldn't had been
12. I forgot my sister's birthday. I _____ a reminder on my phone last week.
    a) should set b) shouldn't have set c) should have setted d) should have set
13. I ate three pieces of cake, and now I feel sick. I _____ so many.
    a) couldn't have eaten b) should have eaten c) shouldn't have eaten d) shouldn't have ate
14. Never climb onto the roof again! You _____ off and broken your leg.
    a) could have fallen b) should have fallen c) could have fell d) can have fallen
15. I _____ you last night, but my phone battery was dead.
    a) would had called b) would call c) will have called d) would have called

16. Luckily, I checked the date on my ticket. Otherwise I _____ at the airport a day late.
a) would had arrived b) would have arrived c) would arrived d) would have arrive

17. I _____ the conference even if I'd wanted to — I was ill all week.
a) couldn't attended b) can't have attended c) couldn't have attend d) couldn't have attended

18. The fridge is empty. We _____ some food on the way home yesterday.
a) should have bought b) should buy c) must have bought d) should have buy

19. The exam was so easy that I _____ it with my eyes closed.
a) couldn't have done b) can have done c) could have done d) could have did

20. The weather on our wedding day was perfect. It _____ better.
a) couldn't have been b) shouldn't have been c) couldn't had been d) couldn't been

21. My parents let me decide. I _____ law, but I chose music, and I've never regretted it.
a) should have studied b) could have study c) could have studied d) could studied

22. You _____ me yesterday! Next time, you _____ me straight away.
a) should have told … should tell b) should tell … should tell c) should have told … should have told d) should have telled … should tell

23. Kate isn't here yet. She _____ the bus. She _____ home earlier.
a) should have missed … should have left b) must have missed … should have left c) must missed … should have left d) must have missed … should have leave

24. We _____ yesterday's match if our best player hadn't been injured.
a) would win b) would had won c) will have won d) would have won

25. If you _____ me about the traffic, I would have left earlier.
a) warned b) had warned c) would warn d) have warned

26. Which sentence is correct?
a) I should have went to bed earlier.
b) I should of gone to bed earlier.
c) I should have gone to bed earlier.
d) I should had gone to bed earlier.

27. Which sentence is correct?
a) That was silly — you could of hurt yourself.
b) That was silly — you can have hurt yourself.
c) That was silly — you could had hurt yourself.
d) That was silly — you could have hurt yourself.

28. Which sentence is correct?
a) You shouldn't have shouted at him. He's only six.
b) You shouldn't shouted at him. He's only six.
c) You didn't should shout at him. He's only six.
d) You shouldn't have shout at him. He's only six.

29. Which sentence is correct?
a) I would of come, but I was ill.
b) I would have come, but I was ill.
c) I would have came, but I was ill.
d) I will have come, but I was ill.

30. Which sentence is correct?
a) If I had known, I would have told you.
b) If I had known, I would told you.
c) If I had knew, I would have told you.
d) If I knew, I would of told you.

Answer Key

Should Have, Could Have, Would Have · Explanations are shortened — the full interactive version is at gramvoy.com/exercises/should-have-could-have-would-have/

1. d) should have brought
A past regret takes should have + past participle: should have brought.

2. b) shouldn't have drunk
Drinking the coffee was a mistake, so shouldn't have + past participle:…

3. c) could have taken
An option you had but didn't use: could have + past participle — could…

4. d) would have driven
The broken car stopped the plan, so the imagined result is would have +…

5. c) should have told
In speech should've sounds like should of, but in writing it is always…

6. a) would have loved
You missed the party, so this is an imagined result: would have loved.

7. d) could have cut
A danger that didn't happen: could have + past participle — could have…

8. b) couldn't have done
Without your help it would have been impossible: couldn't have + past…

9. c) Should … have worn
A question about the past puts should before the subject and have +…

10. b) wouldn't have come
The result of an imagined past takes wouldn't have + past participle:…

11. a) shouldn't have been
You were rude, and that was wrong: shouldn't have been criticises…

12. d) should have set
Not setting a reminder was a mistake: should have set (set stays the…

13. c) shouldn't have eaten
You did eat three pieces, and it was a bad idea: shouldn't have eaten.

14. a) could have fallen
A danger that luckily didn't happen: could have + past participle —…

15. d) would have called
But my phone battery was dead shows a call you meant to make but…

16. b) would have arrived
You checked, so the late arrival didn't happen: after otherwise the…

17. d) couldn't have attended
Being ill all week made it impossible: couldn't have attended.

18. a) should have bought
The empty fridge shows a mistake, so a regret: should have bought.

19. c) could have done
So easy means doing it was possible even with closed eyes: could have…

20. a) couldn't have been
Couldn't have been better means better was impossible — it was perfect.

21. c) could have studied
Your parents let you choose, so law was only an option you didn't take:…

22. a) should have told … should tell
Yesterday is past, so the criticism takes should have told; next time…

23. b) must have missed … should have left
The first gap is a deduction — you're sure it happened: must have…

24. d) would have won
This is the result half of the third conditional — if + had +…

25. b) had warned
Would have left shows an imagined past, so the if-clause takes the past…

26. c) I should have gone to bed earlier.
A regret about the past: should have + past participle — should have…

27. d) That was silly — you could have hurt yourself.
A danger that didn't happen takes could have + participle: could have…

28. a) You shouldn't have shouted at him. He's only six.
Shouting was a mistake, so shouldn't have + past participle: shouldn't…

29. b) I would have come, but I was ill.
Something you meant to do but didn't takes would have + participle:…

30. a) If I had known, I would have told you.
Third conditional: if + had + participle, then would have + participle…