

Could Have / Should Have / Would Have Exercise 1

Make a sentence with a past modal.

1.	. I (buy) b	read but I didn't know we needed it. (past possibility)	
2.	We	(invite) so many people to our party! I'm	
	worried that we won't have enough room for everyone. (past negative advice / regret)		
3.	. I	_ (start) saving money years ago! (past advice / regret)	
4.	We	(join) you at the restaurant, but we couldn't get	
	a babysitter. (past willingness)		
5.	The weather	(be) any worse! (past negative	
	possibility)		
6.	I	(arrive) on time, even if I'd left earlier. There	
	were dreadful traffic jams all the way. (past negative possibility)		
7.	They	(win) the football match, but John hurt his	
	ankle. (past possibility)		
8.	Amanda	(finish) the work, but she felt ill and had	
	to go home. (past willingness)		
9.	Lucy	(left) earlier. She missed her flight. (past	
	advice / regret)		
10.	0. We	(finish) the game, even if we'd wanted to. It	
	was raining very hard and we had to stop.	(past negative possibility)	
11.	1. I	(eat) so much chocolate! I feel sick! (past	
	negative advice / regret)		
12.	2. Luke	(pass) the exam if he'd studied a bit more.	
	(past possibility)		
	3. John	(call) Amy, but he didn't have her number.	
	(past willingness)		
14.	4. You	(be) rude to him. He's going to be really angry	
	now. (past negative advice / regret)		
15.	5. She	(come) to the restaurant if she'd left work	
	earlier. (past possibility)		
16.	6. You	(take) this job. I can see you're not enjoying it.	
	(past negative advice / regret)		



17.	The race was really difficult. She	(win) because
	she's not fit enough. (past negative possibility	r)
18.	Our neighbours	(cut) down the tree in their garden.
	It was a really beautiful tree. (past negative ad	lvice / regret)
19.	The children	(do) their homework last night. Then
	they wouldn't be panicking on the way to school. (past advice / regret)	
20.	I'm really cold! I	(bring) my coat. (past advice / regret)
		(come) to see you! I didn't know you were ill.
	(past willingness)	
22.	Andrew	(go) to Cambridge University, but he
	decided to travel instead. (past possibility)	
23.	They	(be) kinder to me. They were absolutely
	lovely. (past negative possibility)	
24.	You	(buy) some milk at the shops. We don't have
	any milk. (past advice / regret)	
25.	They	(come) to have breakfast with us, but they
	went to bed too late the night before. (past wi	llingness)



Answers

- 1. I could have bought bread but I didn't know we needed it. (past possibility)
- 2. We shouldn't have invited so many people to our party! I'm worried that we won't have enough room for everyone. (past negative advice / regret)
- 3. I should have started saving money years ago! (past advice / regret)
- 4. We would have joined you at the restaurant, but we couldn't get a babysitter. (past willingness)
- 5. The weather couldn't have been any worse! (past negative possibility)
- 6. I couldn't have arrived on time, even if I'd left earlier. There were dreadful traffic jams all the way. (past negative possibility)
- 7. They could have won the football match, but John hurt his ankle. (past possibility)
- 8. Amanda would have finished the work, but she felt ill and had to go home. (past willingness)
- 9. Lucy should have left earlier. She missed her flight. (past advice / regret)
- 10. We couldn't have finished the game, even if we'd wanted to. It was raining very hard and we had to stop. (past negative possibility)
- 11. I shouldn't have eaten so much chocolate! I feel sick! (past negative advice / regret)
- 12. Luke could have passed the exam if he'd studied a bit more. (past possibility)
- 13. John would have called Amy, but he didn't have her number. (past willingness)
- 14. You shouldn't have been rude to him. He's going to be really angry now. (past negative advice / regret)
- 15. She could have come to the restaurant if she'd left work earlier. (past possibility)
- You shouldn't have taken this job. I can see you're not enjoying it. (past negative advice / regret)
- 17. The race was really difficult. She couldn't have won because she's not fit enough. (past negative possibility)
- Our neighbours shouldn't have cut down the tree in their garden. It was a really beautiful tree. (past negative advice / regret)
- 19. The children should have done their homework last night. Then they wouldn't be panicking on the way to school. (past advice / regret)
- 20. I'm really cold! I should have brought my coat. (past advice / regret)
- 21. I would have come to see you! I didn't know you were ill. (past willingness)
- 22. Andrew could have gone to Cambridge University, but he decided to travel instead. (past possibility)



- 23. They couldn't have been kinder to me. They were absolutely lovely. (past negative possibility)
- 24. You should have bought some milk at the shops. We don't have any milk. (past advice / regret)
- 25. They would have come to have breakfast with us, but they went to bed too late the night before. (past willingness)