

## Should Have + U<sub>3</sub> (past participle) - for past regrets -

- ☆ Use **should have** to say that a different action was recommended in the past.
- ⇒ If you arrive late to English class, you can say: "I **should have left** my house earlier."
- ⇒ If you regret an argument, you can say: "I **shouldn't have yelled** at you yesterday. I'm sorry."
- ☆ You can also use **should have / shouldn't have** to tell other people that a different action in the past would have been better. If your son fails a test, you can say:

You **should have studied** harder, you **shouldn't have played** video games all the time.

- ☆ **Should have + past participle** can mean something that would have been a good idea, but that you didn't do it. It's like giving advice about the past when you say it to someone else, or regretting what you did or didn't do when you're talking about yourself.
- ☆ **Shouldn't have + past participle** means that something wasn't a good idea, but you did it anyway.

- I **should have studied** harder! (= I didn't study very hard and so I failed the exam. I'm sorry about this now.)
- I **should have gone** to bed early (= I didn't go to bed early and now I'm tired).
- I **shouldn't have eaten** so much cake! (= I did eat a lot of cake and now I don't feel good.)
- You **should have called** me when you arrived (= you didn't call me and I was worried. I wish that you had called me).
- John **should have left** early, then he wouldn't have missed the plane (= but he didn't leave early and so he did miss the plane).

- ☆ We can also use **should have + past participle** to talk about something that, if everything is normal and okay, we think has already happened. But we're not certain that everything is fine, so we use 'should have' and not the present perfect or past simple. It's often used with 'by now'.
- His plane **should have arrived** by now (= if everything is fine, the plane has arrived).
- John **should have finished** work by now (= if everything is normal, John has finished work).



☆ We can also use this to talk about something that would have happened if everything was fine, but hasn't happened.

- Lucy should have arrived by now, but she hasn't.

## Practice

### I. Complete the sentences with *should have* + *past participle form* (V<sub>3</sub>)

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) bread but I didn't know we needed it. (regret)
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. (regret)
5. The weather \_\_\_\_\_ (be) any worse! (past negative regret)
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) on time, even if I'd left earlier. There were dreadful traffic jams all the way. (past negative regret)
7. Amanda \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) the work, but she felt ill and had to go home. (past regret)
8. Lucy \_\_\_\_\_ (left) earlier. She missed her flight. (past advice / regret)
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) so much chocolate! I feel sick! (past negative advice / regret)
10. Luke \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the exam if he'd studied a bit more. (past regret)

