

PAST CRITICISM & REGRET

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Discuss past mistakes, unused options and constructive responses.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: I missed the last bus. I **should have checked** the timetable.

B: You **could have called** me. I was still awake.

A: I know. I **shouldn't have assumed** you'd gone to bed.

2. WHAT WOULD HAVE HELPED?

1. What task **should you have started** earlier recently? What got in the way?
2. When **could you have asked** for help but chose not to? Explain.
3. What purchase **should you have researched** more carefully?
4. What **should you have said** in a difficult conversation? Why?
5. What opportunity **could you have taken** last year but didn't?
6. What assumption **shouldn't you have made** about someone or something?

Keep talking: Was that reasonable then? / What other options were there? / What will you do next time?

3. HELP WITHOUT BLAMING

Respond tactfully. Explain a better past action, an unused option and a next step.

7. A friend arrived unprepared for an interview. What **should they have done**?
8. Someone spent their whole budget on a ticket. What **could they have done** instead?
9. A group changed plans without telling everyone. What **shouldn't they have done**?
10. A teammate missed a deadline. What support **could the group have offered**?

4. REVIEW AN EVENT FAIRLY

Imagine a group event went badly. Discuss preparation, communication and decisions.

Identify one mistake and two unused options, without blaming everything on one person.

Example: We **should have checked** the route. We **could have asked** a local guide.

Agree on two improvements for next time and explain why they would help.

Answer help: We should / shouldn't have ... / We could have ..., but we didn't.

Remember: Could have can describe an unused option; context distinguishes it from a guess.