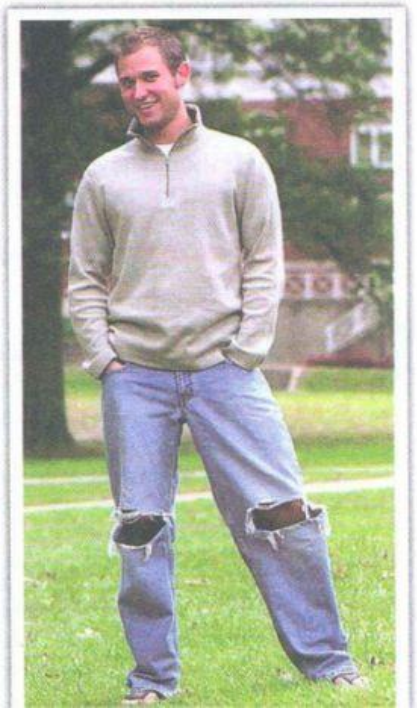
Past modals for judgments and suggestions

Judging past actions

You **should have called** her on the phone.
She **shouldn't have kept** your notes this long.

Suggesting alternative past actions

You **could have been** more understanding.
I **wouldn't have lent** them to her.

A Complete the conversations using past modals with the verbs given. Then practice with a partner.

1. A: I invited my boyfriend over to meet my parents, but he arrived wearing torn jeans. He looked so messy!
   B: Well, he ..... (dress) neatly.
   I ..... (ask) him to wear something nicer.
2. A: John borrowed my car and dented it. When he returned it, he didn't even say anything about it!
   B: He ..... (tell) you! Well, I ..... (not lend) it to him in the first place. He's a terrible driver.
3. A: I'm exhausted. Mary came over and stayed until 2:00 A.M.!
   B: She ..... (not stay) so late. You ..... (start) yawning. Maybe she would have gotten the hint!
4. A: Tom invited me to a play, but I ended up paying for us both!
   B: I ..... (not pay) for him. He ..... (not invite) you if he didn't have enough money.