

REGRETS

FULL NAME: _____

1

TRUE OR FALSE • Read each numbered sentence. Write T (True) or F (False) for the statement that follows.

- I shouldn't have called him.
___ T ___ I called him.
- I should have told them what I thought.
___ I didn't tell them. Now I'm sorry.
- He might have warned us about it.
___ He knew, but he didn't tell us.
- Felicia could have been president.
___ Felicia is president.
- I ought to have practiced more.
___ I didn't practice enough.
- They shouldn't have lent him their car.
___ They lent him their car.

2

COMPLETE • Read this excerpt from a magazine article. Complete it with the correct form of the words in parentheses and a short answer. Choose between affirmative and negative.

Regrets . . .

It's not unusual to feel regret about things in the past that you think you _____ **1. (should / do)** *should have done* and did not do—or the opposite, about things you did do and feel you _____. In fact, we learn by thinking about past mistakes. For example, a student who fails a test learns that he or she _____ **2. (should / do)** more and can improve on the next test. Often, however, people spend too much time thinking about what they _____ **3. (should / study)** differently. Many regrets are simply not based in fact. A mother regrets missing a football game in which her son's leg was injured. "I _____ **4. (could / do)**," she keeps telling herself. "I _____ **5. (ought to / go)** home. I _____ **6. (should / stay)** the injury. The officials _____ **7. (could / prevent)** at least _____ **8. (might / call)** me as soon as it happened." Did she *really* have the power to prevent her son's injury? _____ the officials _____ **9. (Should / contact)** her *before* looking at the injury? No, of course, they _____ **10.** There is an Italian proverb that says, "When the ship has sunk, everyone knows how they _____ **11. (could / save)** it." It's easy to second guess about the past. The real challenge is to solve the problems you face right now.



REWRITE • Read Greta's regrets. Rewrite them using the modals in parentheses and choose between affirmative and negative.

1. I didn't go to college. Now I'm unhappy with my job.
(should) I should have gone to college.
2. I feel sick. I ate all the chocolate.
(should) _____
3. Christina didn't come over. She didn't even call.
(might) _____
4. I didn't have enough money to buy the shirt. Why didn't Ed offer to lend me some?
(could) _____
5. I jogged five miles yesterday, and now I'm exhausted.
(should) _____
6. The supermarket charged me for the plastic bags. They used to be free.
(should) _____
7. I didn't invite Cynthia to the party. Now she's angry at me.
(ought to) _____
8. Yesterday was my birthday, and my brother didn't send me a card. I'm hurt.
(might) _____



EDIT • Read this journal entry. Find and correct six mistakes in the use of modals. The first mistake is already corrected.



December 15

About a week ago, Jennifer was late for work again, and Doug, our boss, told me he wanted to get rid of her. I was really upset. Of course, Jennifer shouldn't ^{have} ~~had~~ been late so often, but he might has talked to her about the problem before he decided to let her go. Then he told me to make her job difficult for her so that she would quit. I just pretended I didn't hear him. What a mistake! I oughta have confronted him right away. Or I could at least have warned Jennifer. Anyway, Jennifer is still here, but now I'm worried about my own job. Should I of told Doug's boss? I wonder. Maybe I should handle things differently last week. The company should never has hired this guy.