

PAST MODAL VERBS

1 Complete the conversations with the phrases in the box.

could have fallen	should have taken	would have cost
could have been worse	shouldn't have opened	wouldn't have enjoyed

1 A: I can't remember that lecture at all!

B: You _____ notes.

2 A: He climbed up onto the roof.

B: That was dangerous. He _____.

3 A: The film was very scary.

B: I certainly _____ it, then.

4 A: I clicked on the email attachment and my computer crashed.

B: You _____ the attachment.

5 A: Was your car badly damaged?

B: It _____. I just need to replace one of the doors.

6 A: Why didn't you build an extra bedroom?

B: It _____ too much.

2 Rewrite the sentences using the words in brackets.

EXAMPLE: It was a mistake to marry him. (shouldn't)

I shouldn't have married him.

1 I think it was wrong to leave her all alone. (wouldn't)

2 I was so happy, I almost kissed everyone. (could)

3 It was a mistake not to buy those shoes. (should)

4 They talked so much they almost missed the last train. (could)

5 Why didn't they buy that house? I think it was a good idea to buy it.
(would)

6 It wasn't possible to help him. (couldn't)

7 It was a bad idea for them to start a business together. (shouldn't)

3 Read about the decisions some people made. What would you have done in each situation? Write responses using the prompts in brackets.

1 'I was driving alone one night and I saw two men hitchhiking. I stopped to offer them a lift.' Kate

a EXAMPLE (I / done that) I wouldn't have done that.

b (they / dangerous)

c (she / stopped)

2 'I was at the airport when a stranger asked me to carry a small package on my flight to Canada. I said yes'. Joe

a (I / say no)

b (it / be a bomb)

c (he / say no)

3 'I was chatting to a stranger online one night. After a while the stranger asked for my address. I gave it to him.' Paula

a (she / tell the stranger her address)

b (the stranger / be dangerous)

c (she / end)