

Exercise 8

Read the information. Then match the explanations with the example sentences.

Talking about past obligations

- Strong positive obligations: *had to*
- Strong negative obligations: *wasn't / weren't allowed to*
- No obligation: *didn't have to*
- Past mistakes / regrets: *should / shouldn't have + past participle*

I'm regretting something negative that DID happen in the past.

I'm regretting something positive that DIDN'T happen in the past.

There was no past rule – it was possible to choose.

This is a negative past rule – something that people had an obligation NOT to do.

This is a positive past rule – something that people had an obligation to do.

1. When I studied history at school, we **had to** learn lots of dates.

2. When I studied history at school, we **didn't have to** learn lots of dates.

3. When I studied maths at school, we **weren't allowed to** use calculators.

4. I **should have** studied harder when I was at school.

5. I **shouldn't have** been so lazy at university.
