

"DIDN'T NEED TO DO" or "NEEDN'T HAVE DONE"?

Example:

- He didn't take his umbrella because the forecast was good. *He didn't need to take his umbrella.* (i.e. He knew it wasn't necessary, and so didn't do it).
- He took his umbrella but it didn't rain. *He needn't have taken his umbrella.* (i.e. It wasn't necessary to take his umbrella, but he didn't know this, and so he did it anyway).

• Select the correct option:

1. She took her money with her but her boyfriend paid.
She _____ her money with her because her boyfriend paid.
2. She didn't take her money with her; her boyfriend always paid.
She _____ her money with her; her boyfriend always paid.
3. Although she bought some suntan oil, it rained every day of the holiday.
She _____ some suntan oil, it rained every day of the holiday.
4. He went to the meeting and found it had been put off.
He _____ to the meeting because it had been put off.
5. As he knew there was a buffet car on the train, he didn't take any sandwiches.
He _____ any sandwiches, for he knew there was a buffet car on the train.

• Complete these sentences using "NEED" in the correct form:

6. They rang the landlady but the flat had already been let.
They _____ the landlady since the flat had already been let.
7. We didn't pack our towels because we had been told the hotel would provide some.
We _____ our towels because we had been told the hotel would provide some.
8. I was going to ring my mother yesterday. However, she unexpectedly came to see me.
I _____ my mother yesterday because she came to see me.
9. I cleaned my shoes and then walked across a muddy field.
I _____ my shoes. If only I'd imagined I would then walk across a muddy field!
10. I didn't tell her I loved her but she knew it anyway.
I _____ her I loved her but she knew it anyway¹.

¹ Secret for my students: the person who wrote this sentence for this exercise must have known a lot about grammar, but not about love! You should always tell people you love the way you feel... Everyone appreciates being loved! ;-)