

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.

