

Perfect Modal Verbs Exercise

We use perfect modal verbs to speculate about the past. Check through the different uses.

TYPE	EXAMPLE	USE
1	I would have gone to that party	- a decision made too late
2	I should/ought to have asked her for her email	- advice coming too late
3	You might have enjoyed the concert	- opinion, possibility but too late
4	We needn't have done it today.	-an unnecessary past action

Look at the following phrases and write in which type you think they are. Then use one of the modal verbs in brackets to fill the gaps.

TYPE

- 1 If I had gone to the sales, I'm sure I something. (to buy)
- 2 Clare was very upset you didn't go to her birthday party. You (to go)
- 3 No one's answering the phone. They out. (to go)
- 4 The lights are out. They to sleep. (to go)
- 5 We Dave to the party if we had known he was in town. (to invite)
- 6 You at Samantha. She'll never forgive you. (to shout **NEGATIVE**)
- 7 I to have done some acting when I was younger. (to love)
- 8 You to wash up. I would have put everything in the dishwasher. (to bother)
- 9 You to the pub on Saturday. We had a great time. (to come)
- 10 She her mind. I'm not sure. (to change)
- 11 You so much money on CDs. You'll have problems getting to the end of the month now. (to spend **NEGATIVE**)
- 12 She told me she you if you had given her your address. (to email)
- 13 She's really shy. You her you liked her. (to tell)
- 14 She yes to a date. You never know. (to say)
- 15 You her weight. She was very upset. (to mention **NEGATIVE**)
- 16 We so much food. We can't eat it all. (to order)

Answers

- 1 1 If I had gone to the sales, I'm sure I would have bought something.
- 2 2 Clare was very upset you didn't go to her birthday party. You should/ought to have gone.
- 3 3 No one's answering the phone. They might have gone out.
- 4 3 The lights are out. They might have gone to sleep.
- 5 1 We would have invited Dave to the party if we had known he was in town.
- 6 2 You shouldn't/oughtn't to have shouted at Samantha. She'll never forgive you.
- 7 1 I would have loved to have done some acting when I was younger.
- 8 4 You needn't have bothered to wash up. I would have put everything in the dishwasher.
- 9 2 You should/ought to have come to the pub on Saturday. We had a great time.
- 10 3 She might have changed her mind. I'm not sure.
- 11 2 You shouldn't/oughtn't to have spent so much money on CDs. You'll have problems getting to the end of the month now.
- 12 1 She would have emailed you if you had given her your address.
- 13 2 She's really shy. You should have told her you liked her.
- 14 3 She might have said yes to a date. You never know.
- 15 2 You shouldn't have mentioned her weight. She was very upset.
- 16 2 We needn't have ordered so much food. We can't eat it all.