



## NEEDN'T HAVE TO

**Didn't need to (do) and needn't have (done)**

**I didn't need to ...** = it was not necessary for me to ... (and I knew this at the time):

- I **didn't need to** get up early, so I didn't.
- I **didn't need to** get up early, but it was a lovely morning, so I did.

**I didn't have to ...** is also possible in these examples.

**I needn't have done something** = I did it, but *now I know* that it was not necessary:

- I got up very early because I had to get ready to go away. But in fact it didn't take me long to get ready. So, I **needn't have got up** so early. I could have stayed in bed longer.

You **should have done** something = you didn't do it, but it would have been the right thing to do:

- You missed a great party last night. You **should have come**. Why didn't you?  
(= you didn't come, but it would have been good to come)
- I wonder why they're so late. They **should have arrived** long ago.

You **shouldn't have done** something = you did it, but it was the wrong thing to do:

- I'm feeling sick. I **shouldn't have eaten** so much. (= I ate too much)
- She **shouldn't have been listening** to our conversation. It was private.  
(= she was listening)

Compare **should (do)** and **should have (done)**:

- You look tired. You **should go** to bed now.
- You went to bed very late last night. You **should have gone** to bed earlier.

Ex 1. Choose the correct phrase: can't have, must have, could have

1. He didn't hear the phone. He **must have** been fast asleep.
2. There is no one by the name Jack here. You **must have** had the wrong number.
3. I can't find my glasses. I **must have** left them at home.
4. He **could have** been there.
5. I **could have** made a mistake.
6. He **can't have** written this, he doesn't speak Spanish.

Ex 2. Choose the best variant

1. Erica ....have gone out. I can't see her.
  - a. could
  - b. **must**
  - c. need
  
2. He looks tired. He might have \_\_\_ awake all night.
  - a. could
  - b. an
  - c. has
  - d. **been**
  
3. I think James must have \_\_\_ all the milk. There's none left.
  - drank
  - drinking
  - drink
  - drunk**
  
4. Look at Lilly's suntan. She must have \_\_\_ somewhere hot on vactaion.

- a. been going
- b. goes
- c. go
- d. **gone**

5. She's late. She may have \_\_\_\_ the wrong road.

- a. has
- b. taked
- c. took
- d. **taken**

Ex 3. Put the words from the list in the most appropriate form:

wear, cost, finish, be, chew, paint, die

1. Jenny's engagement ring is enormous! It **must have cost** a fortune.
2. Please make sure to water my plants while I am gone. If they don't get enough water, they **might die**.
3. You **should have finished** this report by today.
4. Children **don't have to wear** uniforms to school today.
5. Do you **have to chew** with your mouth open like that? Geez, it's making me sick watching you eat that piece of pizza
6. Picasso **couldn't have painted** this picture. It is a different art style.
7. You were wrong. It **couldn't have been** Mark for he has been abroad for 2 months

Ex 4. Choose the correct answer

1. The money disappeared. Someone ... it.

- a. must take
- b. could take
- c. **could have taken**

2. I don't have my umbrella with me, I ... it in the shop.

- a. **must have left**
- b. had to leave
- c. must leave

3. When I was a child, I ... the piano, now I forgot

- a. can
- b. **could** play
- c. could have played

4. The accident could be caused because he ... the sign.

a. might seen

b. might not have seen

c. may see

5. You ... time before the exam

a. had to waste

b. should waste

c. shouldn't waste

6. He is always lying. He ... you the truth.

a. couldn't tell

b. mustn't tell

c. needn't tell

7. How ... I help you?

a. must

b. can

c. need

8. You ... warm clothes on because it's freezing cold.

a. may

b. might

c. had better put

9. She ... some weight it will be good for her health.

a. has to lose

b. may lose

c. is to lose

10. He's clad in a suit. He ... to the party

a. can go

b. must be going

c. may go

11. ... we ... into the living room? It's more comfortable in there We and there's a beautiful view of the lake.

a. have to

b. must move

c. shall move

12. Oh my God, he's unconscious. Don't move him. He ... internal injuries.  
Somebody call an ambulance.

- a. must have had
- b. might have
- c. migh have had

Ex 4. Choose the correct phrase: Must have - Might have - Should have - Can't have

- 1. John **CAN'T HAVE** gone on holiday. I saw him this morning downtown.
- 2. Nobody answered the phone at the clinic. It **MIGHT HAVE** closed early.
- 3. I **should have** revised more for my exams. I think I'll fail!
- 4. Sarah looks really pleased with herself. She **must have** passed her driving test this morning.
- 5. I didn't know you were going to Phil's party yesterday. You **could have** told me!
- 6. I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He **must have** caught the wrong train.
- 7. I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He **cant have** caught the correct train.
- 8. Don't lie to me that you were ill yesterday. You **can't have** been ill - Don said you were at the ice hockey match last night.
- 9. I don't know where they went on holiday but they bought Euros before they left so they **could have** gone to France or Germany.
- 10. His number was busy all night - he **must have** been on the phone continuously for hours.
- 11. It **could have** been Mickey I saw at the party. He didn't recognise me at all.