



# **1<sup>st</sup> semester**

# **Upper Intermediate**

# **Lesson 31**



# Topic 31: Modals in the past: Needn't have/didn't need to.



These past tense modals are useful for expressing your present feelings about a past decision (or other action). To form these past modals, use **could**, **would**, or **should** followed by **have**, followed by a past participle verb.

Modal	Concept	Example
<b>Would have</b>	Past unreal action	If I had guessed the future, I <b>would have taken</b> some precautions against what would happen.
<b>Could have</b>	Past unreal ability	He <b>could have taken</b> the flight.
<b>May have</b>	Past unreal possibility	We <b>may have passed</b> the math exam, but it was in Spanish.
<b>Might have</b>	Past unreal small probability	You <b>might have sold</b> the car., if you really needed the Money.
<b>Should have</b>	Past unreal recommendation	You <b>should have listened</b> to the teacher.
<b>Must have</b>	Past unreal assumption	We <b>must have been</b> crazy!



## Didn't Have to / Didn't Need to

If we say that somebody didn't have to or didn't need to do something, we mean that the action was not necessary and the person did not do it.

### For Example:

It started raining heavily so I didn't need to water the flowers. (it wasn't necessary, so I didn't do that.)



It was my day off yesterday, that's why I didn't need to get up early. (It was not obligatory for me)

**Note:** We use the base form (verb1) of the verb after the modal "didn't have(need) to".

I didn't need to wake up...woke up.

## Needn't Have + Verb3

If we say that somebody “needn’t have done” something, we mean that the action is done, but it was unnecessary and even a waste of time.

### For Example:

You needn’t have done the washing up as I was going to do that tomorrow.



When the party was over, I realized that you needn’t have cooked so much food as most of it was untouched.

Yesterday my friend had already bought 2 tickets for the concert so you really needn’t have bought another one, it was a waste of money.



**Situation 1.** Paul thought it was going to rain. He took his umbrella with him. In the end, it didn't rain.

**Correct Sentence.** He didn't need to / needn't have taken his umbrella with him.

**Situation 2.** Last time I went to Disneyland, Mickey gave me a fast pass. It was a gift!

**Correct Sentence.** I didn't have to wait / needn't have waited and I didn't have to pay / needn't have paid for my Fast Pass!

**Situation 3.** Last Monday there were no classes so I slept late.

**Correct Sentence.** I didn't need to set / needn't have set my alarm clock.

