

4.5 Grammar

Present and past modal structures

I can give advice, criticise past actions and talk about past necessity.

- 1 **CD-2.15 MP3-68** Listen to James talking to his sister Ellie. What is James' problem?



- 2 **CD-2.15 MP3-68** Listen again and choose the advice that Ellie gives. What reasons does she give?

- 1 You *shouldn't* / *should* buy her clothes.
- 2 With a bracelet you *need to* / *needn't* worry about giving the wrong message.
- 3 You *ought to* / *ought not to* get her tickets in advance.
- 4 You *mustn't* / *must* buy her the same perfume as Mum.
- 5 You *had better* / *had better not* ask her friends for advice.

- 3 In pairs, complete the advice with the affirmative or negative form of the verbs in brackets. Then discuss whether you agree with the advice.

- 1 You shouldn't (should) leave present buying till the last minute.
- 2 You _____ (ought to) buy a present unless you're sure about it.
- 3 You _____ (must) give your credit card details to a stranger.
- 4 You _____ (need to) check if you can take the item back.
- 5 You _____ (had better) remember your dad's birthday this year!

- 4 **CD-2.16 MP3-69** Read and listen to a second conversation between James and Ellie. Did James choose a good birthday present for his girlfriend?

Ellie: How was the birthday?

James: Oh, a bit of a disaster, actually. **I should have listened** to your advice, but I didn't. I got a bracelet. I thought it was such a bargain – €15 for a gold bracelet. **I ought to have asked** if it was real gold.

Ellie: You should have realised you couldn't get real gold for €15. But anyway, didn't she like it?

James: She's allergic to metal – she can only wear real gold. She put it on and got a big rash on her arm. **We had to go** to the doctor's.

Ellie: Oh dear! Did you have to take the bracelet back?

James: Yes, but **I needn't have bothered**. They refused to exchange it because I didn't have the receipt. Here you are – you can have it.

Ellie: Oh, thanks!

- 5 Complete the GRAMMAR FOCUS with the past modal structures in blue in Exercise 4.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Past modal structures

- You can use **should/shouldn't have + past participle** or **ought to/ought not to have + past participle** to criticise a past action or show regret.

I ¹ should have listened to your advice.

I ² _____ if it was real gold.

- You use **had to/didn't have to + infinitive** to say a past action was necessary/unnecessary.

We ³ _____ to the doctor's.

- You can also use **didn't need to + infinitive** or **needn't have + past participle** to say a past action was unnecessary. There is a slight difference in meaning: **I didn't need to bother** = I didn't bother because it wasn't necessary.

I ⁴ _____ = I bothered, but it wasn't necessary.

- 6 Choose the correct meaning for the underlined forms.

1 I needn't have revised last night – my exam was cancelled.

A I revised.

B I didn't revise.

2 I didn't need to buy a phone – I got one for my birthday.

A I bought a phone.

B I didn't buy a phone.

3 I'm tired. I should have gone to bed earlier last night.

A I went to bed early.

B I didn't go to bed early.

4 I ought not to have spent so much money last weekend.

A I spent a lot of money.

B I didn't spend much money.

5 It's a lovely day. I needn't have brought my umbrella.

A I brought my umbrella.

B I didn't bring my umbrella.

- 7 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first, using the word in capitals. Use no more than four words, including the word in capitals. Do not change the word in capitals.

1 It's a pity we didn't stay at home. **SHOULD**
We _____ at home.

2 It's a shame he didn't tell her. **TO**
He _____ her.

3 It was unnecessary to do what he said. **HAVE**
You _____ do what he said.

4 That was a silly thing for me to say. **SHOULD**
I _____ that.

5 It wasn't necessary for her to come. **BOTHERED**
She _____ coming.

- 8 **CD-2.17 MP3-70** Listen to three conversations. Choose a sentence from the ones you wrote in Exercise 7 to complete each conversation.

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐

- 9 In pairs, choose a sentence from Exercise 7 and write your own conversation. Then practise and act out your conversation.