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**Could have**

**Should have**

**Would have**

Helping or auxiliary verbs such as **could, should** and **would** are used in conjunction with a main verb to express shades of time and mood. They are called modals.

* When people say such things as “I *could have* come sooner, if I had known,” and “You *would have* liked her, I’m sure,” they put the *could have* and *would have* together.
* The sentences are**contracted** to:I ***could’ve***come sooner, if I had known andyou ***would’ve***liked her, I’m sure.
* Many people listening to such sentences do not recognise the contraction of *have* and so they make the mistake of writing such sentences as:

I *could of* come sooner.... or I *coulda* come sooner...

You *would of* liked her... or You *woulda* liked her...

You **never** write or say ‘could *of*’!

You can say ‘could have’ or ‘could’ve’. It is incorrect to say ‘could *of*.

**PRACTICE EXERCISE**

Rewrite these correct sentences so that they are still correct, but you are being less formal and using the contracted versions.

1. They could have finished the job today if they had hurried.

2. I should have made my bed this morning.

3. She would have mowed the lawn if it hadn’t been raining.

Answers: 1. They could’ve finished the job today..., 2. I should’ve made my bed...., 3. She would’ve mowed the lawn....

**Now rewrite these incorrect sentences** using first the correct and then the contracted forms**:**

1. I should of gone to bed earlier last night.

Complete:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contracted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. We coulda gone to the concert, but now it’s too late.

Complete:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contracted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What should I of done?

Complete:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contracted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Although they didn’t make it to the party, they should of.

Complete:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contracted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. ASDA would of raised the price.

Complete:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contracted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. I woulda gone to class if I hadn’t been ill.

Complete:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contracted:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1. I should have gone to bed earlier last night, I should’ve gone to bed earlier last night

2. We could have gone to the concert, but now it’s too late. We could’ve gone to the concert, but now it’s too late.

3. What should I have done? What should I’ve done

4. Although they didn’t make it to the party, they should have. Although they didn’t make it to the party, they should’ve.

5. ASDA would have raised the price. ASDA would’ve raised the price.

6. I would have gone to class if I hadn’t been ill. I would’ve gone to class if I hadn’t been ill.

**Extension: Create your own sentences and write the correct then contracted form of ‘should have’, ‘would have’ or ‘could have’. You could also write your own quiz for your form.**