Should Have + Past Participle

The couple in the photo should have taken an umbrella. Taking an umbrella was a good idea—but they didn’t do it. Should have + past participle is often used to talk about regrets and past mistakes.

Pronunciation Tip: The l in should is silent; should rhymes with good. Should have is usually pronounced “should-ev” or “shoulda.”

A. Read the conversation below.

Speaker A: They didn’t take an umbrella, and they got soaking wet.

Speaker B: They should have taken an umbrella.

B. Complete the sentences for Speaker B. Use should have in each sentence.

1. Speaker A: I didn’t take the subway to work. I took the bus, and the traffic was awful.
   Speaker B: You _______________________________________________________.

2. Speaker A: They didn’t ask for directions, and they got lost.
   Speaker B: They ________________________________________________________.

3. Speaker A: She didn’t study for the test. Her score was 64%.
   Speaker B: She ________________________________________________________.

   Speaker B: You ________________________________________________________.
5. Speaker A: They didn't buy the TV when it was on sale. Now it costs $100 more.
   Speaker B: They ________________________________.

6. Speaker A: She didn't go to the party because she thought it would be boring. The next day, she heard that everybody had a great time.
   Speaker B: She ________________________________.

7. Speaker A: We didn't learn any Italian before we went to Italy. Sometimes we had trouble communicating with Italians.
   Speaker B: You ________________________________.

8. Speaker A: He didn't check the hours before he went to the library. When he arrived, he discovered the library was closed.
   Speaker B: He ________________________________.

9. Speaker A: We didn't make a reservation for dinner. The restaurant was busy, and we had to wait over an hour for a table.
   Speaker B: You ________________________________.

10. Speaker A: He didn't read the agreement before he clicked on “agree.” He didn't know he was giving the company permission to share his personal information.
    Speaker B: He ________________________________.

C. Read the sentences above aloud with a partner.

D. Write your own sentences for Speaker A and B. Use should have in the sentence you write for Speaker B.

Speaker A: ___________________________________________________________________

Speaker B: ___________________________________________________________________