



Should Have and Shouldn't Have

First of all, let's talk about the pronunciation

Should have is usually contracted as should've. We say *should-uh*

- I *should-uh* known... I *should-uh* gone... I *should-uh* tried.

#1 **Should Have** means...I was expecting that, but nothing happened

We use **should have** when we expected something to happen, but it didn't happen. Hmm.

1. The train **should have** arrived 10 minutes ago. I wonder what happened.
2. This morning when I got to the bagel store at 8:00am it was closed. It **should have** been opened. Hmm.
3. Jack **should have** gotten here by now. I wonder where he is. Hmm.

#2: **I Should Have** means...I didn't do something and I regret not doing that.

We use **I should have** when we talk about things in the past which didn't happen. When you say **I should have**...It usually means that you regret not doing something:

1. I **should have** studied harder for that exam.
2. I **should have** asked Jenny for a date. Now she's Jack's girlfriend.
3. I **should have** listened to my mom's advice.

#3: **You Should Have** means...you didn't do something and that's too bad.

We can use **you should have** to tell someone directly that they didn't do something that would have been a good idea if they had done it. In other words, it's your "past suggestion"

1. You **should have** studied harder for that exam. *He didn't study hard for the exam, but studying harder would have been a good idea.*
2. I didn't know you needed help moving. You **should have** called me. I would have helped you.
3. You **should have** called your grandmother on her birthday. She's really upset.

Should not have is usually contracted as shouldn't have... *should-in-uh... should-i-nuh*

- I *should-i-nuh* done it... I *should-i-nuh* gone...



#4: **I Should Not Have** means...I did something and I regret doing that.

Should not have means that someone did something, but it was not good that they did it.

First of all, you can use **shouldn't have** to talk about something you did, but you regret doing it.

1. I **shouldn't have** had that fourth slice of pizza. I am so full.
2. I **shouldn't have** overslept. I got to work late and missed an important meeting.
3. I **shouldn't have** drunk so much last night.

#5: **You Should Not Have** means...You did something wrong!

You can also use **shouldn't have** when you talk about what another person did that was wrong of them to do:

1. You **shouldn't have** been texting while driving. You totally wrecked your car in the accident.
2. You **shouldn't have** said those things to your mom. Now go ahead and apologize.
3. You **shouldn't have eaten** so much.